

## Cross Infection

Cross infection is the spread of infection from one person to another and, unless proper precautions (standard and additional) are adhered to in the general practice setting, cross infections can occur and cause harm to patients and/or practice staff.

Cross infection can occur from incorrect handling of clinical waste including sharps, blood and body fluid spills, sharps injuries and following incorrect procedures for hand-washing.

### **RACGP 4<sup>th</sup> Edition Standards**

- 5.3.3D** All members of our practice team can demonstrate how risks of potential cross infection within our practice are managed (as appropriate) including procedures for:
- hand hygiene
  - the use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
  - triage if patients with potential communicable diseases
  - safe storage and disposal of clinical waste including sharps
  - managing blood and body fluid spills

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### **Assessment methods**

- Interviews with GPs and practice staff

GPs and practice staff will be able to describe to surveyors how risks of potential cross infections, as outlined above, are managed.

- Document review of practice procedures

The practice will have written procedures for the management of potential cross infections.

- Document review of practice procedures

The Practice will have a documented agreement with a licensed waste removal contractor, who disposes of the waste in accordance with state/territory regulations.

### **Meeting the standards**

Ideally, the practice will have a sharps/needle stick injury procedure displayed wherever sharps are generated. Yellow leak proof, rigid walled containers with the biohazard symbol and sharps containers should be stored, off the ground, in each room where sharps and clinical waste may be generated.

For more information about standard and additional precautions please refer to GPA INFO plus 5.3.3 *Infection Control - Cleaning, disinfecting and decontaminating*