



## Who are we?

- 4600 Staff
- 150,000 population
- 6426 square kilometres

A Case Study presented by  
 Andy Howat Health &  
 Safety Adviser supported  
 by Heather Aitchison  
 Specialist Practitioner in  
 Occupational Health.

NHS Dumfries & Galloway

# Sharps Safety Devices The Journey From Non Safety to Safety



*“It’s a no brainer”*

Jim Beattie (Unison - Employee Director)

# Needlestick Injuries in the past 10 years



Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	10 year total
No. of Injuries	67	77	48	63	64	74	76	57	58	57	641



Our risk management and prevention approach was almost the approach recommended in the *EBN Toolkit*



- **A**void the risks where possible
- **P**rovide appropriate training and instructions for workers
- **R**eplace the dangerous with the less dangerous
- **I**mplement a coherent overall prevention policy (safe systems of work)
- **C**ombat the risks at source
- **E**valuate the risks that cannot be avoided

..... *this comes at **A PRICE***



# The Cost of Sharps Injuries



	<b>Patient A Known Low risk</b>	<b>Patient B Unknown source / risk</b>	<b>Patient C Known BBV+ Source</b>
<b>TOTAL COSTS IN TIME</b>	<b>4hrs</b>	<b>11.42 hrs</b>	<b>153.67 hrs</b>
<b>TOTAL COSTS IN £ or €</b>	<b>£330.38 or € 403.59</b>	<b>£1442.35 or € 1761.97</b>	<b>£11,599 or € 14,169</b>

## What have we done?

- Formed a sharps safety group
- Presented the business case to the Area Partnership Forum
- Sourced the products
- Trialed the products
- Secured the funding
- Implemented some of the products

## Products implemented so far.....

- Safety cannula
- Blood gas collection without needle
- Safety blood collection needles
- Safety urine collection system

## Coming very soon.....

- Insulin pen needle
- Arterial blood gas with needle
- Blood culture products



# Implementation Programme



- Source products and followed tendering process
- Tested products with user groups
- Trial in specific clinical settings
- Collated feedback
- Decide on the best product
- Communicate the changes
- Roll out new products which included training and catch up sessions
- Remove non safety from our stock and ordering system
- Continuously monitoring and review



# How did we get here?



- Presented the Legal, Moral and Economic case
- Used a common sense approach to risk management.
- Worked closely with our Partners including Senior Management, Medical Staff, Nursing Staff, Supplies Staff and Trade Unions.
- Prepared for the changeover by carrying out a full trial of products.
- Developed a communication program.
- Planned the move to Safety Devices leaving nothing to chance.

# In Summary

## What have we learned?



- It has been a long and challenging journey which is ongoing
- The imminent arrival of the EU directive has been hugely beneficial but can not be used in isolation!
- Safety does come at **A PRICE...** This was the greatest challenge
- The development and presentation of a good business case is vital
- You must involve all stakeholders
- You will experience many barriers, but these can be overcome!

***“It’s a no brainer”***