

# UK Progress on implementing the Sharps Directive

**Biosafety Summit: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2011**

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# One year on....3 more occupationally acquired Hepatitis C cases



# UK Activity

## ◆ Safer Needle Network



## ◆ Awareness raising phase

- 4 national workshops
- Objective to raise awareness of Directive and share case studies of implementation
- Follow up contact with delegates to ask about changes made post workshop

# UK Activity

## ◆ Dissemination of Information

- Implementation Guidance
- Revision of *Health and Safety Essentials* ‘Needlestick Chapter’
- Sharing good practice and learning from workshops

[www.nhsemployers.org/HealthyWorkplaces](http://www.nhsemployers.org/HealthyWorkplaces)

# UK Activity

## ◆ Activity by HSE (Inspectorate)

- Hospital prosecuted and fined following a needlestick injury to a healthcare worker during venepuncture
- A programme of proactive inspection visits looking at prevention and management of sharps injuries and occupational dermatitis

# Worcestershire hospital trust fined after injury



Friday, 8 October 2010

A hospital trust has been forced to pay more than £20,000 in fines and costs after a healthcare worker contracted Hepatitis C after injuring herself on a needle used to take blood from an infected patient.





Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust was fined £12,500 and ordered to pay £9,000 costs after pleading guilty to breaching the Health and Safety at Work Act and the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations.

## Sharing



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# UK Activity

## ◆ Data from NHS Supplies

- 50% of sales of IV cannula are safety cannula
- Purchasing decisions driven by national ‘patient safety’ alerts

# Challenges Ahead

- ◆ Economic climate and efficiency savings within healthcare
- ◆ UK Government's approach to health and safety regulation and European Directives "*end to gold-plating*"
- ◆ Cuts to health and safety inspectorate
- ◆ Targeting smaller employers
- ◆ Changing mindsets



# Next Steps

- ◆ Analysis of data from workshops and regulatory inspections
- ◆ Continue to work with regulator and key stakeholders on transposition into UK law
- ◆ Further targeted workshops
- ◆ Tools and resources