

Media Release



Community sharps disposal bins to be installed at Blanche River Health in Englehart November 15, 2022 - For immediate release

TIMISKAMING – A new community sharps disposal bin will be installed in Englehart, outside the emergency department entrance at Blanche River Health (BRH). The goal of having a community bin is to help reduce the number of improperly discarded needles and other sharps.

Sharps are medical devices with sharp points or edges that can puncture or cut the skin. Examples include needles, syringes and lancets. Sharps are used by many including people with cancer, diabetes and other medical conditions, pet owners and people who use substances.

Dianne Peplinski of Englehart Family Health Team (EFHT) has been a champion in getting this bin to the area. “This is a great asset for our community” says Peplinski, who reached out to Timiskaming Health Unit (THU) for support. THU provided the bin and the hospital and EFHT will share the ongoing costs and responsibilities. Jamey Swartz of BRH adds “The sharps bin is a large durable, weather and tamper-proof steel container that is well secured. It is clearly labelled and will be emptied regularly by trained staff”.

All three organizations are involved with Timiskaming Drug and Alcohol Strategy (TDAS). Many organizations across the district are working together on a strategy to address drug and alcohol use and related harm in our area. “Harm reduction is one of the key areas of focus of TDAS. A harm reduction approach works to reduce the negative effects of substance use. The community sharps bin initiative provides individuals with safe and convenient options for sharps disposal”, says Kerry Schubert-Mackey, TDAS Co-Chair.

Improper sharps disposal can lead to injuries, or infection. Although the risk is low of getting a serious infection if you get a sharp injury (poke or cut), it is important to seek medical care as soon as possible. Information on what to do if you come across a discarded needle or sharp is available on THU’s website or by calling 705-647-4305 ext 2232. or emailing harm.reduction@timiskaminghu.com.

Currently in Englehart, sharps can be returned in an approved sharps container to pharmacies and THU during business hours. Having a community bin provides another option for residents with more flexibility for drop off times. Other bin locations across the district are at THU and Canadian Mental Health Association in Temiskaming Shores and THU in Kirkland Lake.

www.timiskaminghu.com

For more information

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