*Draft* **Protocol:**

**Sharps**

**Safe Handling of Sharps:**

**All dental facilities must comply with EU Sharps Directive of 2010 which was transposed into Irish law in Statutory Instrument (S.I.) 135 of 2014.**

\* Needles may be recapped using a safety system either using a safety device or using a syringe system incorporating a safe recapping mechanism. The system used in this practice is...............

\* Needles must be disposed of immediately after use by the operator.

\*Care must be taken when handling sharp instruments such as probes, scalpel blades and other sharp instruments.

\*Burs should be removed from handpieces after use to avoid injury.

\*Specifically designed sharps containers, labelled with the universal symbol, must be used for disposing of needles/disposable syringes, scalpel blades, used matrix bands, endodontic files and reamers, burs, saliva ejectors with metal, anaesthetic cartridges and suture needles. Extracted teeth without amalgam may also be discarded in a sharps container.

\*Sharps containers must be out of reach of patients and secured.

\*When loading stack sharp instruments (e.g. probes) into the washer disinfector with the sharp end pointing down.

\* Manual cleaning (hand washing) of instruments is the least acceptable method of cleaning and must be carried out as directed in *Protocol: Manual Cleaning of Dental Reusable Invasive Medical Devices (RIMD)*.