

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES**

**BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS
STANDARD**



Objectives

Upon completion of the Bloodborne Pathogens Standard module, the participant will be able to:

1. Describe what is being done to protect the healthcare employee in the workplace against communicable bloodborne diseases
2. Discuss the employer's and employee's responsibilities for exposure protection and exposure control plan
3. Define Standard Precautions
4. Identify the tasks and procedures that put employees at risk for exposure



Objectives (cont.)

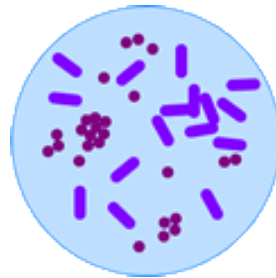
5. Give at least two examples of the four types of infection control strategies that are used in healthcare settings
6. Identify locations and items where signs, labels, and color coding are used to designate a biohazard
7. Describe the procedure if an employee has a blood or body fluid incident and explain how to report and document the incident (e.g., Sharps Injury Log)
8. Explain the reasons and benefits of receiving the Hepatitis B Virus vaccine



General Definition

Bloodborne pathogens

Pathogenic (disease-producing) microorganisms that are present in human blood and can cause disease in humans.



Locations for Pathogens: Body Fluids

- Blood
- Semen
- Amniotic fluid
- Vaginal secretions
- Body fluid contaminated with blood
- Sterile body cavities:
 - Cerebrospinal
 - Synovial
 - Pleural
 - Pericardial
 - Peritoneal fluid



Other Locations

- **Saliva** during dental procedures
- **Unfixed tissue or organs** other than intact skin from living or dead humans
- **Cell or tissue cultures** that contain HIV or Hep B
- **Organ cultures**, culture media, or similar solutions
- **Blood, organs, and tissue** from experimental animals infected with Hep B or HIV



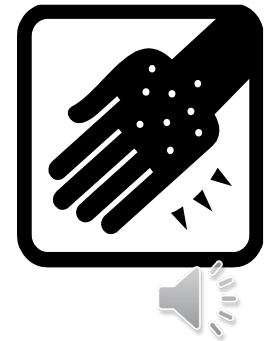
Universal Blood and Body Fluid Precautions

- Concerns of healthcare workers to risk of infection from occupationally transmitted blood borne diseases (Hepatitis B, AIDS)
- 1987: Centers for Disease Control (CDC) released the recommendations
 - **Must consider the blood and body fluids of ALL patients as potentially infectious**
- DPH CHS, Exposure Control Plan, Policy No. 922



Bloodborne Pathogens Standard (T8CCR 5193)

- Mandated by the California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/OSHA)
- Collaboration between healthcare employer and employees
- You are covered by the Standard if potentially exposed



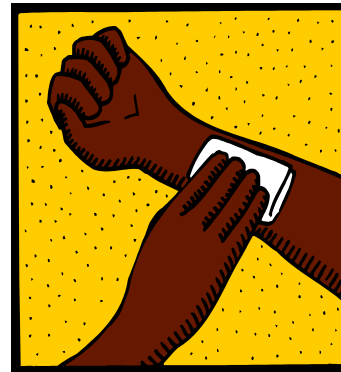
Health Center Exposure Control Plan

- **Goal:** Limit contact with blood and/or body fluids
- Responsibilities fall on **BOTH** employer and employees
- CHS Policy 907: Reporting Incidents
- CHS Safety Manual and IIPP



Exposure

- Injury caused by a sharp object contaminated with infectious material
- Broken skin
- Mucous membranes
- Indirect



Hepatitis B Virus (Hep B)

- **Definition:** Inflammation of the Liver
- Risk factors
- Signs and symptoms
- Communicability
- Best way to prevent Hep B:



GET VACCINATED



Reducing Risk Of Infection

1. Engineering Controls
2. Employee Work Practice Control
3. Housekeeping/Environmental Controls
4. Hepatitis B Vaccination



Engineering Controls

Physical or mechanical systems provided to eliminate hazards at their source, e.g.:

- Self-sheathing needles
- Needleless access systems
- Sharps containers



Employee Workplace Practice Controls

Reduce exposure to bloodborne pathogens or infectious materials by:

- Hand washing
- Needle Safety
- Safe Work Practices



Handwashing

Prevent spread of nosocomial infections by:

- Washing immediately after exposure
- Washing after removing gloves
- Using antiseptic hand sanitizer if no water



How To Wash Hands

1. Use paper towels to turn on faucet if sink has no foot or elbow controls available
 - Avoid hot water because it dries up the skin
2. Scrub vigorously with soap and running water for at least 20 seconds. Include areas between fingers and around nails
3. Rinse thoroughly
4. Dry hands thoroughly with paper towels; turn off water with towel if no foot or elbow control
5. Discard used towels in covered, lined trash container



Needlestick Injuries

Injuries are associated with these activities:

- Recapping needles*
- Transferring body fluids between containers
- Failing to dispose of used needles properly

* **Recapping needles refers to “USED NEEDLES” (needles used to administer vaccine/treatment vs. needles used in preparing vaccine/treatment).**



Needle Safety

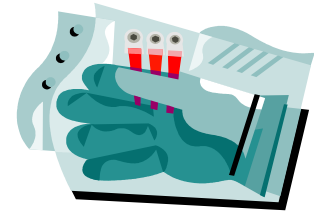


- Treat as a potential lethal weapon
- Do not bend, hand-recap, shear or break
- Use mechanical device or one-handed technique for recapping
- Use appropriate puncture-resistant, leak-proof container



Safe Work Practices

- Cover specimen tubes with gauze to prevent splatter
- Avoid petroleum-based lubricants
- Never mouth-pipette or suction blood or other infectious materials
- Storage of food and drinks



Equipment Availability

- Sinks and soap
- Appropriate PPE
- Needle/sharps disposal containers
- Disinfectants and sterilants
- Biohazardous waste bags (Red bags)



Resuscitation Devices

- Protect yourself from contact with victim's saliva during resuscitation
- Emergency respiratory devices & pocket masks
- Avoid unprotected mouth-to-mouth resuscitation



Housekeeping/Environmental Controls

- Decreases infection risk
- Waste disposal
 - Stool and urine
 - Fluid-filled containers
 - Soiled disposable articles
 - Regular waste



Hepatitis B Vaccination

- Hepatitis B Vaccination Program
- Post-exposure evaluation and follow-up
- OSHA Hepatitis B Standards



Miscellaneous

- Laboratory specimen management
- Blood pressure cuffs and stethoscopes
- Thermometers



Home-Generated Sharps Waste

- CHS Policy No. 904 – R1
“Home-Generated Sharps Waste Management”
 - Only licensed clinic staff who have been trained are allowed to accept sharp waste.
- Disposal of sharps containers at DPH clinics



Hazard Communication

- Specific labeling is required
 - Biohazard symbol
- Color Coding is required
 - Red infectious waste bags
- What must be labeled



Sharps Log

- Sharps injury:
 - Any injury caused by a sharp including cuts, abrasions, or needlesticks
- Sharps log:
 - A record of each exposure incident involving a sharp
 - Assists in developing effective exposure-control strategies



Conclusion

- Attend required education and training programs related to exposure control
- Use safe practices such as Universal Precautions
- Know and follow clinic policies and procedures
- Report a work-related exposure immediately and follow the appropriate protocol



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