

Summary of the Procedures for the Prevention of the Transmission of Blood Borne Pathogens including Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV and the Management of Parenteral Injuries

1. Follow ROUTINE PRACTICE/STANDARD PRECAUTIONS when dealing with patients:

- a. **WASH YOUR HANDS** before and after every patient contact.
- b. **DO NOT** recap needles or resheath scalpels.
- c. Wear gloves for all blood taking and procedures involving direct contact with body fluids.
- d. Wear gowns, masks, and goggles or face shields for extensive body fluid exposures when splattering or splashing may occur.
- e. Remember: a complete history includes asking about infectious and contagious diseases.
- f. Ensure that your Hepatitis B vaccination series has been completed and your Tetanus is up to date.

2. IF you have a needle stick, sharp injury or a significant mucosal exposure to blood or body fluid:

- a. **C** - cleanse the affected area with free running water (mucosal exposures) and soap (for wounds). Allow wounds to bleed freely.
- b. **U** - utilize the Occurrence Report Form to document the exposure **AFTER IMMEDIATELY** cleansing the exposed area and notifying the clinical supervisor (nurse or physician).
- c. **T** - obtain treatment for the wound and assessment for the exposure **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** (within 2 hours) from Employee Health Services (during normal working hours) or the hospital Emergency Room. Preventative therapy for HIV exposures must be started within **TWO HOURS** of the exposure.
- d. **S** - baseline serological testing is recommended for HBV, HCV and HIV for yourself and the source patient and **must be** coordinated through Employee Health Services or Emergency Department if EHS is closed.

3. Special information about HIV infections:

NO PATIENT can be refused appropriate medical care, including HIV infected people. When a resident or member of the medical staff is unable to provide this care, then the Responsible Physician or Head of Section should be notified.

When dealing with patients with known or suspected HIV infection:

- a. Inform the medical and nursing staff providing care to the patient.
- b. Before ordering an HIV antibody test ensure that the approved form for obtaining *valid, voluntary, informed consent* for testing is obtained from the patient.
- c. Check with the appropriate policy regarding testing and reporting procedures. Protect the patient's rights. Be sensitive to the issues of HIV infection, including confidentiality.

For additional information please refer to the following documents on the HHS Intranet under Infection Control:

- Standard (Routine) Precautions
- Health Safety and Wellness for Percutaneous or Mucus Membrane Exposure
- Or consult the Employee Health Service or the Infection Control Practitioner.