Baylor College of Medicine
Occupational Health Program

Procedure for Needle stick and Human Blood Exposure

General instructions:
Exposure to blood through a needle stick or splash can happen all too frequently in the clinical or laboratory setting. With each exposure, you risk contracting hepatitis or HIV/AIDS. The best protection against blood borne exposure is being careful.

If your job requires contact with human blood or secretions you must complete the Hepatitis B Immunization protocol and complete yearly blood borne pathogen training.

If you are exposed:
-Immediately wash the area with soap and water. Other antiseptic solutions can be used, if you are not allergic. With mucous membrane exposure, rinse with large amounts of water.
-Contact the appropriate person in the department or institution as soon as possible.
-Ensure that the source patient is tested through the institution where event occurred.
-Contact the OHP: 713-798-7880.
-Complete the appropriate follow-up.

In addition to reporting to the individual institutions where an event occurs, incidents should be reported to OHP by calling 713-798-7880 or visiting the OHP clinic. Blood testing on a BCM employee/student should typically be done through OHP. A summary letter will typically be sent to you when all the results are available.

The following reporting instructions are institution specific:

Harris Health Ben Taub Hospital or LBJ or community health centers:
-Report to the charge nurse on the floor/unit/OR to coordinate source blood testing, ensure a “downtime” lab order form is completed and the blood tubes are routed to the lab.
-Complete the online E-incident form.
-Rapid HIV testing is typically done on the source patient. Those results go to Employee Health and OHP during business hours. After hours (3:00 pm), they go to the Emergency Center. You will need to be checked in as a patient to get those results after hours.
-If your exposure occurs during business hours, contact OHP at the time of exposure. If it occurs after hours, you can notify us the next business day.

CHI St. Luke’s Hospital or satellite clinics or ambulatory surgical care centers:
-Report to the unit nurse to arrange for the source to be tested and initiate reporting process.
-Contact CHI-SL Occupational Health (832-355-6040 or 832-355-2112).
-Complete the IRIS reporter available from a St. Luke’s computer link to occupational/employee health.
-If after-hours, report to the CHI St. Luke’s emergency center.

Texas Children’s Hospital:
-Contact charge nurse on the unit to arrange for source testing including completing the online lab requisition.
-Contact the TCH Employee Health office (832-824-2150, option 1 or on-call person at 832-824-2099).
-Report event through any TCH computer homepage using the RL6 event reporting link (Safety Scoop).

Houston MEDVAMC:
-Report to the VAMC emergency center (713-794-7440).
-Source testing and employee testing will be done through the emergency center.
-Contact the VAMC Employee Health office for an appointment after the EC visit to follow-up on the results. They are located in 4B room 231 (713-794-7003). They will provide a hardcopy of the results. Employee should provide this to Baylor OHP. The VAMC EHC does not forward any of the results to OHP.

Houston Methodist Hospital
-Contact the charge nurse where event occurred. They will arrange for the source blood testing; these are sent to the lab “stat”.
-Complete the paper reporting forms.
-Contact the Employee Health office (713-441-1391) to report incident and have baseline testing done. These results are reported back to employee but not to OHP. Employee has to provide consent to Methodist employee health for the tests to be sent to OHP.
-If after-hours, present to the Methodist Emergency Center.

Others
-Contact the employee or occupational health office or infection control of the institution the event occurred in.

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