Bloodborne Pathogens Health Occupations Students





Cascades East Area Health Education Center

Health Occupations Students



The information you are about to review is very similar to the same information on this topic-bloodborne pathogens- that is given to new SCHS caregivers at their orientation.



Your job is to understand the importance of minimizing exposure to bloodborne pathogens and the variety of safety measures that are in place at SCHS.



As you rotate through the various departments, be aware of the use of the EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN, designed to minimize exposure to blood and body fluids.

What are Bloodborne Pathogens?

•Disease causing microorganisms that "live" in an infected person's blood and/or body fluids.

> Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV

•May be transmitted when infected blood or body fluids come in contact with:

- 1. Open wound
- 2. Puncture from a contaminated needle
- 3. Mucous Membrane



Hepatitis

- Inflammation of the liver
 - viruses can produce chronic infections that often remain clinically silent for decades while increasing risk for liver disease and hepatocellular carcinoma.
- Hepatitis B and C are transmitted through contact with infected blood/body fluids
- Hepatitis A is transmitted through fecal-oral route therefore we ask all of our food service personnel to be vaccinated.



Hepatitis B

- Vaccine and treatment available
- Can live in a dry environment for up to 7 days.
- Due to active vaccination programs in the US, the new case rate has decreased by 85% in 20 years.

Vaccination -Hepatitis B

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- 3 shot series
- 95% effective for adults

HCV -Hepatitis C

- No vaccine available
- Symptoms may or may not be present
- Leading cause of liver transplant in U.S
- Newer treatment available with early diagnosis (\$very expensive\$) and most effective in the early stages of diagnosis.



Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) / AIDS

- Attacks the human immune system
- Can live in a dry environment for only a few hours
- AIDS = Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
 - Results from destruction of the human immune system from infection with HIV
- No vaccine available
- If the source is positive it is best to get anti-virals within the first 2 hours!



Universal Precautions

• A standard of care designed to protect health care providers and patients from pathogens that can spread by blood or other body fluids

• All blood and body fluids are considered to be infectious!

Exposure Control Plan

Written plans to eliminate or minimize exposure to body fluids

During your rotations, try to observe these controls in action:

- Standard precautions
- Engineering controls
- Work practices
- Personal protective equipment
- Housekeeping

Engineering Controls to observe: Physical Guards

Objective: Isolate or remove the bloodborne pathogen hazard from the workplace using:

- A physical guard or barrier
- Environmental controls
- Example: Sharps containers
 - Closable, puncture resistant, leak-proof, and labeled.
 - Safe Needle Devices:
 - Retractable needle devices, needleless IV systems



Work Practices to Observe

Objective: Safer steps to do the job!

- Do not recap needles
- Do not bend, break or remove needles
- Activate safety devices on sharp instruments.
- Report all non safety needles
- Use PPE and remove before leaving work area
- Vaccination is the number one way to prevent the spread of disease!



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Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to Observe

- Objective: Consider that all patients are infectious and wear PPE
- » Gowns
- » Gloves
- » Face shields and/or masks
- » Eye protection



Housekeeping to Observe

- Objective: Maintain a clean and sanitary workplace
- Written cleaning and decontamination schedule
- Laundry handle as little as possible and store in leak-proof container or bag

Regulated Waste

- Blood or body fluids
- Contaminated sharps
- Lab or medical waste
- Other items caked with dried blood or body fluids
- Containers must be easily accessible, leak-proof and properly labeled or identified
- Must be replaced routinely (don't over-fill)
- SPECIAL PROCESS FOR CLINICAL WASTE AT SCHS



Exposure Incident

Considered a Medical Emergency

Contact with blood or body fluids with:

- Cuts, puncture, needle sticks
- Mucous membrane
- Eye
- Non-intact skin- can include chapped, abraded skin or minor cuts



Act Fast to an Exposure!

- Immediately notify supervisor
- Go Directly to the ED
- Do not leave ED until you receive source patient results!

Questions?

- Caregiver Health Nurse
 - 541-706-4771
- CEAHEC Director - 541-706-2773



