

Staff Huddle: Bloodborne Pathogens Part 1 Week #1

What is the Risk? Blood is a body reservoir where germs can live and avoiding blood exposure in the healthcare setting is the primary way to prevent the spread of bloodborne diseases. Healthcare workers are at risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens because of their contact with patient's blood or other bodily fluids from patients.

- ❑ Blood Reservoir
 - ❖ Reservoir – this is where germs live. Knowing where germs live can help us recognize where there is risk for them to spread.
 - ❖ Blood is **NOT** supposed to have any germs. Some viruses cause infections that release virus into the blood. If a person becomes infected, then blood can spread the virus to other people.
 - ❖ Blood is a very good place for germs to grow and is a nutritious food source for bacteria.²
 - ❖ Healthcare tasks involving blood:
 - Starting an IV
 - Giving an injection
 - Surgery & procedures
 - Changing laundry soiled with blood & bodily fluids - Blood on linens or surfaces or devices – grows bacteria.

Staff Huddle: Bloodborne Pathogens Part 1 Week #2

- ❑ About Hepatitis B (HBV)
 - ◆ HBV is spread through sharp or needlestick injuries, direct contact with mucous membranes, or nonintact skin (e.g., burns, wounds, cuts, and scratches) leading to exposure to infectious blood or body fluids.
 - ◆ Hepatitis B vaccination is the backbone of HBV prevention efforts.³ All HCW with anticipated exposure to blood or body fluids should be vaccinated with a complete, ≥3-dose Hep B vaccine.⁴
 - ◆ The risk for HBV is related to the level of contact with blood in the workplace. The virus remains infectious on environmental surfaces for at least 7 days.⁵
 - ◆ Who is at risk?⁵
 - Residents and staff members of facilities for people with developmental disabilities due to close personal contacts⁶
 - Health care and public safety staff with anticipated exposure to blood or blood-contaminated body fluids.
 - People on maintenance dialysis, peritoneal dialysis, and who are pre-dialysis due to risk of contact with contaminated surfaces, equipment & supplies.
 - People with diabetes associated with assisted blood glucose monitoring devices.

Staff Huddle: Bloodborne Pathogens Part 1 Week #3

□ About Hepatitis C (HCV)

- ◆ There is no vaccine to prevent Hepatitis C. The best way to prevent HCV infection is to avoid contact with contaminated blood.⁷
- ◆ Healthcare-associated spread of Hepatitis C has been related to inadequate infection prevention practices. These infection control breaches have included reuse of syringes and other failures of aseptic technique, contamination of multidose vials, and inadequate cleaning of equipment.⁸
- ◆ Who are at risk:
 - Persons on long-term hemodialysis due to high risk of blood contamination of surfaces, objects and devices
 - Healthcare, emergency medical, and public safety workers after needlestick, sharps, or mucosal exposure due to contamination of HCV-infected blood
 - Recipients of a prior transfusion or organ transplant before July 1992 since blood screening only became available after

Staff Huddle: Bloodborne Pathogens Part 1 Week #4

□ About HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus)

- ◆ Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the virus that causes acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), spreads by sexual contact, exposure to infected blood or blood components, and perinatally from mother to neonate.
- ◆ Occupational HIV spread is extremely rare. The estimated risk of HIV infection from a sharp injury is about 0.3 percent (1 in 300). Only 57 documented cases have been reported by CDC and 48 were related to puncture/cut injury. The CDC no longer collects data on occupational HIV.⁹
- ◆ There is currently NO vaccine & effective cure. But with proper medical care, HIV can be controlled.⁹
- ◆ Post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is recommended when occupational exposure happens. Start PEP medication regimens as soon as possible after occupational exposure to HIV and continue them for a 4-week course duration.
- ◆ Fluid splashes to intact skin or mucous membranes are considered to be extremely low risk, whether or not blood is involved.