

Staff Huddle: Bloodborne Pathogens Part 2 Week #1

What is the Risk? Germs such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV can live in the blood reservoir and cause diseases.¹ Healthcare workers are at risk for exposure to bloodborne pathogens because of their contact with patient's blood or other bodily fluids from patients.

- ❑ Infection Control Actions to minimize Risk.
 - ❖ To prevent spread of bloodborne pathogens in the workplace, health care workers must assume that blood and other body fluids from all patients are potentially infectious.
 - ❖ Observe Standard Precautions - basic practices that apply to all patient care, regardless of the patient's suspected or confirmed infectious state, and apply to all healthcare settings.²
 - ❖ Standard Precautions are also intended to protect patients by ensuring that healthcare personnel do not carry infectious agents to patients on their hands or via equipment used during patient care.

Staff Huddle: Bloodborne Pathogens Part 2 Week #2

- ❑ Standard Precautions include¹¹
 - ❖ Hand hygiene - with soap and water after contact with blood or body fluids.
 - ❖ Environmental cleaning and disinfection - Disinfect noncritical surfaces with an EPA-registered disinfectant according to the label's safety precautions and instructions.
 - ❖ Injection and medication safety
 - ❖ Risk assessment with use of appropriate personal protective equipment (e.g., gloves, gowns, face masks) when anticipating contact with blood or body fluids
 - ❖ Properly cleaning and disinfecting or sterilizing reusable equipment before use, between each patient or when soiled using EPA-registered disinfectants labeled as effective against HIV and HBV.
 - ❖ Carefully handle and dispose of sharp instruments during and after use.

Staff Huddle: Bloodborne Pathogens Part 2 Week #3

- ❑ Recommendations for potential exposure to BBPs¹³
 - ❖ Treatment of an exposure site
 - Wounds and skin sites that have been in contact with blood or body fluids should be washed with soap and water; contact with the eyes and insides of the mouth and nose should be flushed with water.
 - ❖ Performing an exposure report
 - Employers should follow all federal (including OSHA) and state requirements for recording and reporting occupational injuries and exposures.
 - ❖ Evaluation of the exposure
 - The exposure should be evaluated by a medical professional based on the type of body substance, the route and severity of the exposure.
 - ❖ Evaluation of exposure source
 - If the HBV, HCV, and/or HIV infection status of the source person is unknown, the source person should be informed of the incident and tested.