

Bloodborne Pathogens

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Exposure

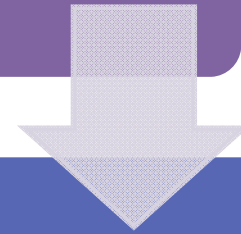
Significant risk of
transmission

Required follow-up
measures

Exposure

- A needlestick
- A nonsexual contact that:
 - Exposes the person's nonintact skin or mucous membrane to the blood or body fluids of another AND
 - Is of a nature that it would pose a significant risk of transmission of HIV or Hepatitis B if the source person were infected

Exposure



Significant risk of
transmission

Significant risk of transmission

- No legal definition
- Rules say consider factors:
 - Type and volume of body fluid
 - Concentration and virulence of pathogen (if known)
 - Type of exposure
- Case-by-case determination based on current science

Exposure

Significant risk of
transmission

Required follow-up
measures



- Exposed person: suffers a needlestick or gets blood/body fluids on broken skin or mucous membrane
- Source person: the person who contributes the blood or body fluids

Required follow-up measures

- Specific measures depend on whether source person is known or unknown
- Unknown source person:
 - Offer HIV testing to exposed person
 - Determine whether exposed person has been vaccinated for Hepatitis B
 - Vaccinate for Hepatitis B if indicated

Follow-up to reduce risk of disease

- Known source person:
 - Exposed person's attending physician or occupational health care provider must notify source person's attending physician.
 - Source person's physician must test source for HIV and Hepatitis B and notify exposed person's physician of results.
 - Exposed person's physician offers follow-up in accordance with the rules.

Attending physician

- Health care facilities may release the name of a source person's physician to the exposed person's physician on request
- If no attending physician, health department should step in



- **Do you have to know or suspect a source person has HIV or Hepatitis B for the bloodborne pathogen rules to apply?**
- No. What is important is the nature of the contact, not any knowledge or suspicions anyone may have about the source person's HIV or HBV status.

- **Must a source person give informed consent before being tested?**
- No. The rules allow testing without consent, so long as the test can be performed without endangering the safety of either the source person or the person administering the test.

- **What if the source person will not submit to the test?**
- Use existing blood sample, if available.
- Public health remedies are available (injunction, misdemeanor charges).
Whether to use them is a judgment call.

- **What about biting or spitting incidents? Do you test anyone, and if so who?**
- Remember there are two steps before you get to the question of testing ...

Exposure

Significant risk of transmission

- **Do the rules authorize testing for Hepatitis C or other pathogens?**
- Currently the rules do not authorize testing, but a person could be tested with consent.

Criminal defendants

- Nonsexual exposure:
 - Magistrate can order person detained
 - But decision about whether to test should be made by public health

Criminal defendants

- Sexual offenders
 - Victim requests tests
 - DA petitions judge
 - Judge orders tests
 - Public health role:
 - Not involved in deciding whether to test
 - But may have to conduct test
 - And will have to conduct follow-up counseling

Contact information

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