

# Bloodborne Pathogens Training

reviewed 8/28/20



Chester County Health Department

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# OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard

- To provide protection to public employees who may be exposed to bloodborne pathogens (BBP) as a result of their job duties.
- All employees who could be “reasonably anticipated,” as the result of performing their job duties, to face contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials (OPIM) are required to complete training.
  - Includes employees who are trained in CPR and First Aid.



# Why is Training Required?

- OSHA requires training in BBP and mitigating healthcare personal exposures.
  - Measures that healthcare providers take to protect themselves also protect patients from healthcare-associated infections.



# How Does Exposure Occur?

- Most common occurrence in a health care setting is from accidental needlesticks.
- Cuts from other contaminated sharps.
  - Scalpel, broken glass, lancet, broken capillary tube
- Contact of mucous membranes (for example; the eyes, nose, mouth) or broken (cut or abraded) skin with contaminated blood.
  - If there are no infiltrations of mucous membranes or open skin surfaces, it is not considered an occupational exposure.



# Bloodborne Pathogens

- Three of the most common BBP from which health care workers are at risk after an injury:
  - Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)
  - Hepatitis B Virus (HBV)
  - Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)



# Exposure Control Plan (ECP)

- Outlines policies and procedures to eliminate or minimize employee exposures to BBP.
- Identifies jobs and tasks where occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious material occurs.



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# ECP Requirements

- Must be written.
- Must be reviewed at least once a year to reflect changes in tasks, procedures, or assignments.
  - Must document the employer's consideration and implementation of safer medical devices.
- Must solicit input from potentially exposed employees in identification, evaluation, and selecting of engineering and work place controls.



# ECP Requirements

- Must be accessible to employees.
  - Current Health Department ECP is located on the intranet in the [Safety Manual](#).
  - Updated version is working its way through the approval process. The final version will be located in the [Policies and Procedures folder](#) in the Shared Drive and a paper version taken to offsite clinics.





# ECP includes:

- Determination of employee exposure
- A list of CCHD job titles with occupational exposure includes:
  - Public health nurses
  - Public health educators
  - Disease investigators in certain programs
  - Nutritionists
  - Support staff in certain programs



# ECP includes:

- Implementation of various methods of exposure control, including:
  - Universal precautions
  - Engineering and work practice controls
  - Personal protective equipment
  - Housekeeping



# Universal Precautions

- Use of proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Treat all blood and bodily fluids as if they are contaminated.
- Perform adequate cleanup and decontamination.
- Disposal of all contaminated material in the proper manner.



# Potentially Infectious Bodily Fluids

- In addition to blood, OPIM includes:
  - Semen
  - Vaginal secretions
  - Several internal body fluids (i.e. pericardial fluid)
  - Sweat, tears, saliva, urine, feces and vomitus are not considered OPIM unless they contain visible blood.



# Engineering and Work Practice Controls

- Both are used to eliminate or minimize employee exposure.
  - Examples include:
    - Hand washing
    - Safety and retractable needles
    - Engaging plastic guard on butterfly needle after blood draw and needles after injection of vaccine.
    - Sharps containers at each work station
    - Filter paper or plastic tubes for collecting blood samples, instead of glass tubes



# Personal Protective Equipment

- Shall be used when occupational exposure remains after using engineering controls and work practices.
- Equipment is required at no cost to employees.
  - Examples include:
    - Gloves
    - Gowns
    - Masks
    - Eye protection
    - Face shields



# PPE Rules to Remember

- Always check PPE for defects or tears before using.
- If PPE becomes torn or defective, remove and replace.
- Remove PPE before leaving a contaminated area.
- Do not reuse disposable equipment.
- Dress appropriately to minimize risk when working in the lab.



# Housekeeping

- Regulated waste is placed in specified containers and labeled.
- Decontamination:
  - When cleaning up surfaces, use properly diluted bleach solutions (at least 1:10) or other suitable commercial disinfectant.
  - Do an initial wipe up.
  - Spray and allow it to stand for the manufacturer's recommended time frame then wipe up.
  - Dispose of all wipes in biohazard containers.
  - PPE should be removed and disposed of in biohazard containers.





# ECP includes:

## Hepatitis B vaccination

- Within 10 days of assignment, employer makes the vaccine available.
- No cost to employees.
- Done during work hours.
- Supervised by licensed physician or healthcare professional.



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# ECP includes:

## Post-exposure evaluation and follow up

### What to do following a sharps injury?

- **Step 1: Provide immediate care to the exposure site.**
  - Wash wounds and skin with soap and water.
  - Flush mucous membranes with water.
- **Step 2: Notify supervisor immediately.**
  - Will assess exposure and follow up steps.



# ECP includes:

## Hazards Communication

- Warning labels shall be affixed to containers of regulated waste, refrigerators, freezers, or other containers used to store or transport blood or OPIM.
  - Red bags or containers may be substituted for labels.
  - Signs at the entrance to restricted work areas where biohazard waste is present.



# ECP includes:

## Recordkeeping

- Annual BBP quizzes kept on file x 3 years.
- Incident medical records kept confidential.
- Incident Report Forms:
  - Act as the Sharps Injury Log.
  - Assist in monitoring injuries and developing plans to eliminate or reduce injury incidents.
  - Are kept confidential.
- WIC Universal Precautions Policy and Procedure is available to WIC staff.



# In Conclusion

- OSHA's goal is to limit occupational exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials since any exposure could result in transmission of bloodborne pathogens that could lead to disease or death.
- BBP rules are in place for your health and safety.
- Failure to follow them is taking unnecessary risks with your health and safety, as well as the health and safety of others



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