

Blood Borne Pathogen Exposure

Introduction

Exposure to blood borne pathogens (i.e. Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV) is a risk for those working in the healthcare environment. The health and safety of caregivers is a priority for OhioHealth and relates to the goal of a quality work life.

There are legal and regulatory requirements for OhioHealth to implement policies and procedures consistent with national standards. These national standards for blood borne pathogen exposure are established by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Occupational Safety Health Administration (OSHA). There are also Ohio Department of Health regulations that must be met.

As a person with potential to become an 'exposed person,' you should know the recommended best practices for protection, as well as 'what to do for your OWN care' if you are exposed!

Within OhioHealth, managers and supervisors have many employees who are designated to have 'lead' or 'charge' responsibilities. Job titles will vary among the units/departments and campuses. So we want you to identify who you would report to if an exposure occurred in 'your work area'. You need to know what to expect from your 'leader'.

The time one spends in the Emergency Department will vary, but there are some things that you can do to make the entire process more efficient!

Ask yourself these questions:

1. Do you know where the forms are kept on the unit, or in your department?
2. How soon after a potential exposure should you report this to your 'charge nurse or clinical instructor?'
3. If you need help, who will assist you to complete the *Illness/Injury Record*?
4. When should you visit the Emergency Department for assessment?
5. What should you take with you to the Emergency Department?
6. When do you follow-up with Employee Health & Wellness?

Exposed individuals may seek assistance from the nurse manager, supervisor or sometimes designated lead or charge person or clinical instructor.

Exposed individuals need to receive care as soon as possible, through the Emergency Department, in the event of an exposure.

Exposed Person Responsibilities

In the event of an exposure to blood borne pathogens, the Exposed Person should:

- + Provide first aid (pressure to wound to stop bleeding)
- + Wash wound with soap and water.
- + For mucous membrane exposure, flush copiously with water.
- + Ask for “exposure packet”
- + Notify your instructor or nurse manager of clinical area immediately.
- + Complete the Illness/Injury Record Form in packet
- + Identify the *source* by name and location, if known.
“Source” refers to the patient this instrument/needle was used for and thus may harbor their body fluids.

The Illness/Injury Record is to be completed by the Exposed Person.

Managers/supervisors/instructors may assist with its completion. The Illness/Injury Record (accident form) begins the record keeping and tracking process for any exposure. There are several important aspects of the Illness/Injury Record:

(You need to write in all vital information about the Exposed and Source Persons. Make sure this information is clear and legible.

- + Provide details re: sharps injuries and/or exposure
- + Describe ‘what happened’ with as much detailed information as possible
- + Use the Supervisor Comments Section for additional comments such as: “Source refuses lab testing” or “sharp disposed of properly after incident”)
- + Remove label with number located at bottom of form and place on Illness/Injury Record Form in box titled “Supervisor’s Comments”. Also check “Source” box on this lab requisition form.
- + Leave the Source Lab Requisition with the nurse manager.
- + Take the packet including Injury/Illness Form with you to the Emergency Department.
- + Check in as a patient at the Emergency Department. Inform the Emergency Room Registrar that this is an urgent medical problem related to an exposure.

Employee Health and Wellness uses the Illness/Injury Record for tracking and follow-up. Make sure that the Source and Exposed Person information are placed onto this form.

Emergency Department Responsibilities

Emergency Department physicians and *staff* know that a blood borne exposure is an ‘urgent medical problem’ and will attempt to complete assessment as quickly as possible. The major responsibilities in the Emergency Department include the following:

- ✚ Registrar registers the Exposed Person. This is required for everyone and allows for 'billing' to take place. Identify yourself as a GRANT paramedic student.
- ✚ Be seen by Emergency Department staff, including a physician
- ✚ Receive counseling regarding your exposure risk level
- ✚ Be asked to sign one or more consent forms
- ✚ Be asked to provide blood samples for testing
- ✚ Give certain vaccinations and/or be advise to take certain medication
- ✚ Give information regarding contacting Employee Health and Wellness for follow-up within 72 hrs of exposure

What Questions should I ask myself?

1. Has Registration and Risk Assessment been completed promptly?
2. Did I get instructions for follow-up with Employee Health?
3. Did I receive counseling?
4. Receive information to read concerning my exposure?
5. Were all my questions answered clearly?

Department	Riverside	Grant	Doctors
Employee Health	614-566-5514	614-566-9515	614-544-1008
Emergency Dept	614-566-5321	614-566-9270	614-544-1046

EMS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT - 614-566-8289

Post-Test

Blood Borne Pathogen Exposures

Student's Name _____

Department: EMS EDUCATION

Date: _____

1. If exposed to Blood borne pathogens, the exposed person should report to the nearest (Doctors, Grant or Riverside) Emergency Department as soon as possible.
 - a. True
 - b. False

2. Which of the following is the 'correct order of events' when an exposure to blood borne pathogens occurs?
 - a. Obtain Exposure Form, notify Manager/Charge nurse/Instructor, go to Employee Health
 - b. Apply First Aid, notify Manager/Charge nurse/Instructor person and get Exposure Form
 - c. Notify Manager/Charge nurse/Instructor, get Exposure Form and apply First Aid
 - d. Get the Exposure Form, go to the Emergency Department, call your Manager/Charge nurse/Instructor.

3. Which of the following is taken by the Exposed Person when reporting for his/her initial assessment following an exposure to blood borne pathogens?
 - a. Insurance Card and ID Badge
 - b. Only the Blue Sheets from Exposure Packet
 - c. The Exposure Packet with the exception of the source lab slip
 - d. Employee Injury/Illness Record

4. For post-exposure follow-up (within 72 hours), the exposed person should report to which of the following?
 - a. To his/her unit/department manager
 - b. To the Emergency Department
 - c. To his/her personal physician
 - d. To Employee Health and Wellness

5. I know where the Exposure Forms are located on my unit/in my department.
 - a. True
 - b. False

Return completed, Corrected posttests to: EMS Education