

Bloodborne Pathogens

Healthcare Workers and other Employees



Session Objectives

You will be able to:

- Identify risks of exposure
- Understand the requirements of the facility's exposure control plan and OSHA regulations
- Prevent exposure by taking proper precautions
- Take effective action in the event of an exposure

What You Need to Know

- Risks of exposure and means of transmission
- OSHA requirements
- Exposure control plan
- Universal precautions and other exposure control measures
- What to do in the event of a direct exposure

Understanding the Risks

- Human blood
- Bodily fluids
- Tears and saliva
- Sweat
- Tissue and cell cultures
- Materials contaminated with blood and bodily fluids



HIV

- HIV is the virus that leads to AIDS
- HIV attacks the immune system
- HIV does not survive well outside the body
- Symptoms include fever, loss of appetite, weight loss, chronic fatigue, and skin rashes or lesions
- Victims can develop cancer or deadly infections in later stages

Hepatitis B

- Hepatitis B is carried in blood and bodily fluids
- Hepatitis B can cause serious health problems
- The virus survives well outside the body
- Symptoms include fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, pain, vomiting, and jaundice
- An effective vaccination is available

Hepatitis C

- Hepatitis C is a common bloodborne infection
- In health care most cases are the result of needlesticks
- It can be years before symptoms are recognized
- Hepatitis C can cause chronic liver disease and death
- Symptoms are similar to hepatitis B
- There is no vaccine

Workplace Transmission

- Contact with an infected person's blood or bodily fluids that contain blood
- Contact with other potentially infectious materials
- Contact with contaminated sharps/needles



Workplace Transmission

(cont.)

- Entry through non-intact skin
- Entry through eyes, nose, and mouth (mucous membranes)



OSHA Requirements

- Bloodborne Pathogens Standard
- Written exposure control plan
- Hazard identification and protective measures
- Training for employees at risk
- PPE

Risks and Regulations

- Do you understand the information that has been presented so far?



Exposure Control Plan

- Review and update annually
- Reflect changes in technology
- Document use of safer medical devices
- Ask you for your input

Exposure Control Plan (cont.)

- Safe work practices and engineering controls
- Selection and use of necessary PPE
- Housekeeping practices to eliminate or minimize exposure
- Proper handling of biowaste
- Labels and signs
- Training

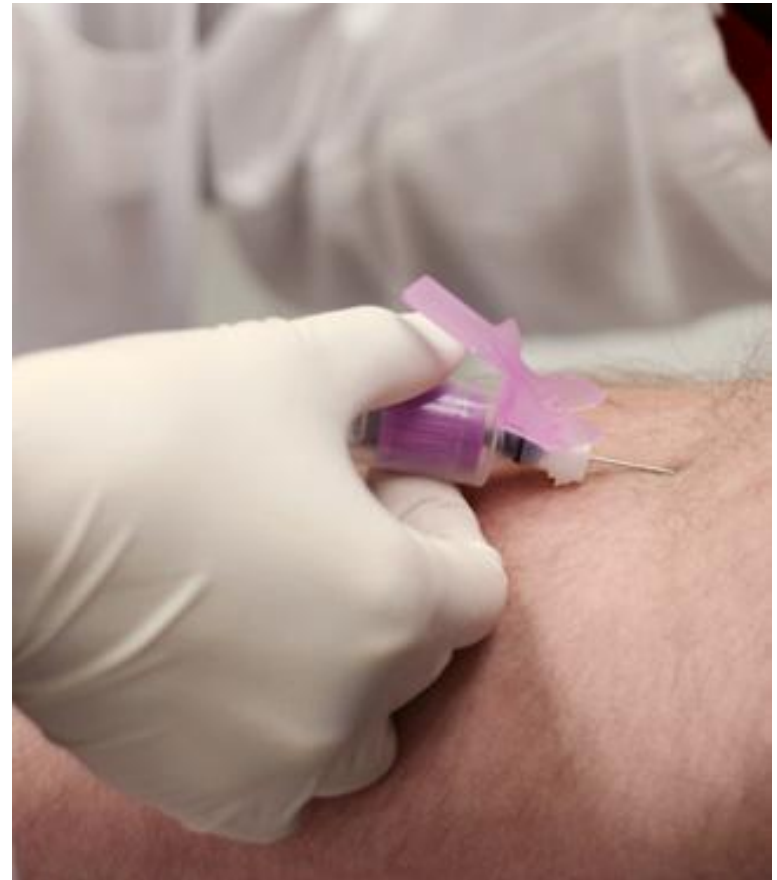


Universal Precautions

- Treat all blood and bodily fluids as if they are infected
- Treat potentially contaminated materials as if they are infected
- The goal is to avoid all direct contact
- Universal precautions apply to any and all potential exposures

Precautions with Sharps

- Prevent needlesticks with needleless equipment or special devices
- Look for sharps less likely to cause needlesticks



Precautions with Sharps

(cont.)

- Dispose of all sharps in proper containers
- Don't shear, break, bend, or remove needles
- Don't recap needles unless you use a mechanical device
- Don't reach into a container that might contain sharps
- Use a strainer to hold sharps when cleaning
- Don't clean up broken glass with your hands

Personal Protective Equipment

- Gloves
- Face and eye protection
- Protective clothing
- Inspecting PPE before use
- Removing PPE after each use and if defective.



Personal Hygiene

- Wash with soap and water immediately after any exposure
- Wash thoroughly after removing PPE
- Flush eyes, nose, or mouth after exposure
- Don't eat or drink in possible exposure areas
- Don't keep food or drinks near potentially infectious materials

Safe Work Practices

- Take special care when you collect, handle, store, or transport blood or other potentially infectious materials
- Don't use your mouth to pipette blood or other potentially infectious materials
- Transport waste, sharps, or other potentially contaminated items in closed, leakproof containers
- Do not open, empty, or clean reusable containers by hand

Labels and Signs

Labels that include the universal biohazard symbol and the word “Biohazard” must be attached to:

- Containers of regulated biowaste
- Refrigerators or freezers containing blood or other potentially infectious materials
- Containers used to store, transport, or ship these materials

Housekeeping

- Use universal precautions when cleaning
- Wear appropriate PPE
- Clean and decontaminate all equipment and surfaces
- Remove and replace protective coverings
- Clean and decontaminate reusable bins, pails, and cans
- Dispose of contaminated cleaning materials properly

Laundry

- Use universal precautions
- Wear assigned PPE
- Bag contaminated laundry
- Use leakproof bags for wet laundry



Regulated Medical Wastes

- Liquid or semiliquid blood or other potentially infectious materials
- Contaminated items that would release infectious materials when compressed
- Contaminated sharps
- Pathological or microbiological waste



Exposure Control

- Do you understand all the information presented in the previous slides?



Exposure Incidents

- An exposure incident is direct contact with blood, bodily fluid, or other potentially infectious material
- Wash thoroughly after any direct exposure
- Report any exposure incident right away to your supervisor
- You will be offered a blood test and medical evaluation



Hepatitis B Vaccinations

- Safe and effective way to prevent disease
- Offered to all employees whose job description puts them at potential risk for exposure to blood or body fluids.
- Provided at no cost to you



Key Points to Remember

- Take universal precautions
- Wear assigned PPE
- Use safe work practices
- Practice good personal hygiene
- Dispose of contaminated materials properly in labeled containers
- Report all direct exposures
- Handwashing is the single most effective means of preventing the spread of infectious diseases.

Policy and Procedure

Please be sure to review the Health Departments Policy and Procedures:

- **CP07-2009CD09** Bloodborne/Body Fluids Pathogens Exposure Control Plan
- **CP12-2009CD10** Bloodborne/Body Fluids Post-Exposure Management