

# BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN EXPOSURE

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# OSHA

- Stands for Occupational Safety and Health Administration.
- Is an agency of the U.S. Department of Labor.
- It's mission is to assure safe and healthful working conditions for workers by setting and enforcing standards and for providing training and outreach.

# BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS STANDARD

- Established and set by OSHA
- States what employers must do to protect workers who are occupationally exposed to blood or other potentially infectious materials (OPIM), as defined by the standard.
- Employers are required to establish an exposure control plan.
- Plan must be updated annually

# Other Potentially Infectious Materials (OPIM)

- Any of the following body fluids are OPIMs:
  - ◆ Semen
  - ◆ vaginal secretions
  - ◆ amniotic fluid
  - ◆ peritoneal fluid
  - ◆ pleural fluid, pericardial fluid
  - ◆ saliva in dental procedures
  - ◆ body fluid that is contaminated with blood
  - ◆ all body fluids in situations where it is impossible to differentiate between body fluids.

# PROTECTIONS PROVIDED BY OSHA'S BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS STANDARD

- Exposure Control Plan.
- Use of Universal Precautions, which includes providing personal protective equipment such as gloves, gowns, eye protection and masks.
- Use of engineering controls that isolate or remove the bloodborne pathogens hazard from the workplace which includes using safer medical devices such as self sheathing needles and sharps containers.

## PROTECTIONS (CONT.)

- Use of Universal Precautions is important when administering medications by route of injectable, topical, rectal or vaginal.
- Availability of post-exposure evaluation and medical follow up for any occupationally exposed worker.
- Availability of hepatitis B vaccine to all workers with occupational exposure.
- Provide information and training to workers.
- Maintain worker medical and training records.

# REDUCING AND PREVENTING EXPOSURE TO BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

- Disposable gloves are to be worn during procedures where there is a risk of hand contact with blood or body fluids.
- Disposable gloves are to be worn when handling linen and clothing which has been soiled with blood or body fluids.
- Gloves are to be disposed of in a biohazard container only if soiled with blood.
- Hand washing may be the only precaution necessary for many contacts in the health care facility.

# Exposure Incident

- Exposures occur through needle sticks or cuts from other instruments contaminated with an infected person's blood, or OPIM. Also through contact of the eye, nose, mouth or non-intact skin with an infectious body fluid.
- Most exposures do not result in infection.
- The risk of infection can vary with the following factors:

The pathogen involved, type of exposure, amount of blood or OPIM involved and the amount of virus in the patient's blood at the time of exposure.

# Examples of Exposure Incidents

- Needlestick injury with a contaminated needle.
- Contact with blood on hands that are chapped, abraded or afflicted with dermatitis.
- Splashing of blood or other infectious body fluids into the eye or mouth.
- Exposure to non-infectious body fluids is NOT an exposure incident unless the fluid contains visible blood contamination.

# POST EXPOSURE PLAN

- Any employee who suspects a significant exposure must follow post exposure procedures which include:
  - ◆ Immediately washing the exposed area with soap.
  - ◆ Rinsing exposed mucus membranes with warm water.
  - ◆ Immediately notifying supervisor.
  - ◆ Following CEI-CMH policies and procedures provided by your supervisor.

# RESOURCES

- CDC
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)