4160 ATTACHMENT I

HANDLING POTENTIALLY CONTAMINATED MATERIALS

**How to React to Bloodborne Pathogens in the Workplace.**

Exposure to bloodborne pathogens in the workplace can literally happen anywhere, including bathrooms, patient rooms, hallways and laboratories. These steps can teach you how to respond.

* Protect Yourself.
* Act Immediately.
* Clean the Area.
* Tell your Supervisor.

**OSHA STANDARDS** for reducing risk of bloodborne pathogens include:

* Use of personal protective equipment (PPE) whenever there is reasonable anticipation of exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials,
* Hand washing after the removal of PPE; following contact with blood or other potentially infectious material; and/or prior to, or following care.
* Hand washing prior to or after care.
* Use of safer needle devices and needleless devices to decrease needle stick or other sharps exposures.
* Implementation of engineering and work practice controls for proper handling and disposal of needles and other sharps to help prevent exposures.
* Avoid splashing, spraying, spattering, or creating droplets of blood or other fluids.
* Use of containers for transfer or disposal of anything contaminated with blood or infectious material. The containers should display the biohazard label, be leak-proof and able to close.
* Discarding blood and other potentially infectious body substances in amount sufficient to cause infection in red bags or containers labeled Infectious Waste or marked with the biohazard label.
* Use of health care organization-approved disinfectant on all contaminated items before use on another patient/resident.
* Appropriate use of Personal Protective Equipment, a health-care organization-approved disinfectant, and a blood spill kit for containing and cleaning spills of blood or body substances.
* A plan that ensures a Post-Exposure Evaluation and Follow up is in place to address exposure to blood or body fluids via needle stick, sharps injury, splash to mouth, nose or eyes, or to non-intact shin for all employees.
* A plan that ensures Hepatitis B vaccination has been given or is offered to all employees and health care workers who have the potential for occupational exposure to blood and other potential infectious materials.

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The OSHA Blood borne Pathogens Standards apply to blood and Other Potentially Infectious Material (OPIM), which includes:

* Cerebrospinal fluid
* Synovial fluid
* Pleural fluid
* Amniotic fluid
* Pericardial fluid
* Unfixed tissue or body organs other than intact skin
* Semen
* Vaginal secretions
* Any body fluid contaminated with blood
* Saliva in dental procedures
* Body fluids in emergency situations that cannot be recognized
* Blood, organs, and tissue from experimental animal infected with HIV or HBV

**EXPOSURE**

An exposure is contact with blood or other potentially infectious material with eyes, nose, mouth, non-intact skin, or parenteral contact, which is an injury that results in a piercing of the skin or mucous membranes, such as needle stick, bite, cut, or abrasion.

**Steps for Exposure to Blood or Other Potentially Infectious Material**

Immediately:

* Wash needle stick and cuts with soap and water.
* Flush splashes to the nose, mouth or skin with water.
* Irrigate eyes with clean water, saline, or sterile irrigates.
* Report exposure to your supervisor.

Seek medical evaluation because treatments are most likely to be effective if administered as soon as possible after the exposure.

**REFERENCES**

* Department of Health and Human Services Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2007). 2007 Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings.
* U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety & Health Administration. (n.d.).Bloodborne Pathogens and Needlestick Prevention.
* U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety & Health Administration. (n.d.) Regulations (Standards – 29 CFR) Bloodborne pathogens. – 1910.1030.

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