

BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN EXPOSURE

CMHA-CEI Training Unit

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Community
MENTAL HEALTH
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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