

2 Safety Procedures

2.1 Standard Precautions

Staff should regard patients consistently as being potentially infectious.

Gloves

Gloves should be worn when handling or touching any blood and body substances, mucus membranes or non-intact skin, and for handling items or surfaces contaminated with blood or body substances. Gloves must be changed after contact with each patient and hands must be washed on removal of gloves.

Safety Spectacles

Use of safety spectacles is encouraged. They should be provided and may be used at the discretion of the phlebotomist.

Sharps

Needles should be placed in a puncture resistant sharps container for disposal. A plastic kidney dish should be used to transport needles from bed to trolley.

2.2 Needle Stick Injury/Body Fluid Exposure Protocol

Hepatitis, HIV and other viruses can be transmitted via penetrating injury with a contaminated needle or other sharp object or by contact between mucus membranes, eg. eyes, mouth and infected body fluids. In **ALL** cases the Needle Stick Injury/Body Fluid Exposure Kit protocol for the Health Authority should be followed.

Immediate Care Treatment

Immediately after exposure the health care worker should:

- Encourage bleeding and wash area with running water and soap. Where there is no running water an alcohol hand wash (minimum strength 60%) is to be used
- Flush mouth and eyes if contaminated with copious amounts of water or saline for a period of at least 30 seconds
- Remove clothing if contaminated and shower if appropriate
- Dispose of needle/syringe if involved in the appropriate manner. Do not forward these items to the laboratory for testing
- Report incident to appropriate person, eg. supervisor in the health centre **as soon as possible**

Supervisor

- Complete incident report
- Support and counsel health care worker
- Refer to medical officer

Expert Information Network

Advice will be provided 24 hours a day, seven days a week by the Infectious Diseases Physician on call who can be contacted through the switchboard in the following facilities:

Brisbane	Princess Alexandra Hospital	(07) 3240 2111
	Mater Adult Hospital	(07) 3840 8111
	Royal Brisbane Hospital	(07) 3636 8111
Nambour	Nambour General Hospital	(07) 5441 9600
Townsville	Townsville General Hospital	(07) 4781 9221
Cairns	Cairns Base Hospital	(07) 4050 6333

2.3 Blood and Body Fluid Spills

Any blood or body fluid is to be treated as potentially infectious. Therefore, the same routine is to be applied to all spills.

Equipment:

- Gloves
- Paper towels or absorbent cloth
- 1% sodium hypochlorite or absorbent granules
- Safety spectacles

Procedure

1. Wearing gloves and safety glasses, surround the spill with 1% sodium hypochlorite solution or absorbent granules and mop up with paper towels discarding them in infectious waste bag.
2. If broken glass is involved, a plastic pan and brush may be used to dispose of material into a sharps container.
3. Wipe the area again with 1% sodium hypochlorite to ensure all infectious material has been removed.
4. On completion of this task wash hands to avoid transmission of organisms.