

Guidelines for the Management of Exposures to Blood and Body Fluids

Appendix 7 – Prevention of Bloodborne Pathogens

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Use of routine infection control precautions in health care and personal care settings and use of harm reduction measures by individuals who use drugs or have sex without protection with multiple partners can help to reduce the risk of exposure to all BBPs.

Vaccination

Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B vaccination for all at-risk HCWs is a very important and necessary preventive measure against HBV transmission in the health care delivery environment.

- a. Health care workers, emergency service workers and others with potential occupational exposure to blood, blood products and bodily fluids that may contain HBV (Public Health Agency, 2012). Workers at "significant" risk can be determined on an agency-by-agency basis, **but should always include those performing invasive procedures** (Health Canada Infection Control Guidelines, 2002).
- b. The Saskatchewan Immunization Manual provides eligibility criteria and recommendations for hepatitis B vaccine for HCW¹. Other employing agencies or occupational groups (e.g. corrections or policing) may have hepatitis B vaccine recommendations for their staff in accordance with employment and occupational health and safety legislation and regulations².
- c. Post-HBV immunization antibody testing should be conducted as outlined in the Canadian Immunization Guide or the Saskatchewan Immunization Manual³.

In the community, HBV universal immunization program began in Saskatchewan in 1995 for individuals born in or after 1984. The immunization is provided to children in Grade 6. Refer to Saskatchewan Immunization Manual.⁴

Hepatitis C

There is no vaccine for hepatitis C; therefore, it is incumbent on individuals to ensure that they are taking personal protective measures to reduce their risk of exposure.

¹ <http://www.ehealthsask.ca/services/manuals/Documents/sim-chapter7.pdf>

² <http://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/4355>

³ <http://www.ehealthsask.ca/services/manuals/Pages/SIM.aspx>

⁴ <http://www.ehealthsask.ca/services/manuals/Documents/sim-chapter5.pdf>

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HIV

There is no vaccine for HIV; therefore, it is incumbent on individuals to ensure that they are taking personal protective measures to reduce their risk of exposure.

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References

Health Canada. (2002). Infection control guidelines: Prevention and control of occupational infections in health care. *Canada Communicable Disease Report (CCDR)*, 28S1:1-264, March 2002. Retrieved October 2019 from <http://publications.gc.ca/collections/Collection/H12-21-3-28-1E.pdf>.

Public Health Agency of Canada. (2019). *Canadian immunization guide – Hepatitis B*. Retrieved October 2019 from <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-4-active-vaccines/page-7-hepatitis-b-vaccine.html>