

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 for individuals who engage in risky behaviours 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.
- c. Post-HBV immunization antibody testing should be conducted as outlined in the Canadian Immunization Guide or the Saskatchewan Immunization Manual²

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.³

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.

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.

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

² <http://www.ehealthsask.ca/services/manuals/Pages/SIM.aspx>

³ <http://www.ehealthsask.ca/services/manuals/Documents/sim-chapter5.pdf> .

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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)*, 28SI:1-264, March 2002. Retrieved May, 2013 from <http://publications.gc.ca/collections/Collection/H12-21-3-28-1E.pdf>.
- Public Health Agency of Canada. (2012). *Canadian immunization guide*. Retrieved May, 2013 from <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/cig-gci/p04-hepb-eng.php#a4>.