

Individuals exposed to blood and body fluids in community and occupation settings should be followed in accordance with these guidelines to reduce the risk of transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B, and hepatitis C. Management includes the immediate assessment and coordination of subsequent follow-up. Various health care providers are involved in follow-up; these guidelines summarize the roles from a patient-first perspective.

Prevention

Prevention is an essential component for the overall control and management of exposure to blood borne pathogens.

In the health care setting, prevention is largely achieved through the establishment of administrative controls, the training and insistence on safer workplace practices, the use of personal protective equipment, and utilization of the best instrument design available. For additional information, refer to your regional infection control manual or to Public Health Agency of Canada's Prevention and Control of Occupational Infections in Health Care.

In community settings, prevention is achieved through the use of standards for infection prevention and control by private industry and harm reduction measures including access to safer drug use supplies and safer sex practices. Resources include the latest Infection Prevention and Control Practices for Personal Services or the Saskatchewan Personal Service Facility Best Management Practices¹.

This guideline does not address:

- prevention of perinatal transmission from a pregnant woman with HIV;
- pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)² as an approach to prevent HIV transmission for those who have ongoing high-risk exposures. Persons interested in PrEP should be referred to an HIV prescriber.

¹ <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/api/v1/products/91812/formats/108743/download>

² <https://skhiv.ca/pre-exposure-prophylaxis-prep/>
