

**MANAGEMENT OF SHARPS/NEEDLESTICK INJURIES AND OTHER
BLOOD/BODY FLUID (BBF) EXPOSURES**
QUICK REFERENCE GUIDELINES

These guidelines must be followed in the event a staff member is involved in an exposure event or injury from a contaminated sharp item used on a patient:

1. **Sharps injuries/lacerations:** Allow wound to bleed freely; wash wound with soap and water (do not force bleed).

Splashes to non-intact skin: Immediately wash area well with soap and water.

Splash/spray to eyes, nose, mouth: Flush area well with copious amounts of water or normal saline @ least 15 minutes @ eye wash station.

2. Immediately report the exposure to your Supervisor, Nurse Supervisor or Nurse Manager.
3. **Complete Safety Always report.** Under "type of event" select Employee or Medical Staff event. Under "event type", select Blood or Body Fluid Exposure or Needle stick or sharp object injury.
4. Contact the Employee Health (EH) Nurse at ext. 63271 opt. 6 from 7:00 AM until 4 PM Monday through Friday for guidance.

*After 4:00 PM, and on holidays & weekends, please call the Nursing Supervisor at ext. 66836 (**The employee must still leave a message for the EH Nurse so appropriate follow-up can be completed the next business day**).

5. You must know the following information when reporting an exposure:
 - a. Source patient's complete name (please spell last name)
 - b. Source patient's medical record number
 - c. Employee (exposed person) contact number/information including home and cell phone numbers
6. The source patient's blood must be obtained ASAP; it will be tested for HIV, HCVAB and HBsAg. Call the lab to see if any blood is available for the rapid HIV. If there is no specimen or an insufficient amount of blood available in the lab, the labs must be drawn STAT.

* **Two 3.5ml SST tubes (Gold Top) and one lavender tube** must be drawn and sent to the lab.

In EpicCare order an Employee Health Body Fluid Exposure panel. Dr. Thomas Lawford is the ordering physician. For assistance in ordering, contact EH Monday-Friday (7:00 AM – 4:00 PM) or contact the Nursing Supervisor after hours, holidays, and weekends. The patient will not be charged for these tests.

7. The source patient **must not be discharged** until it has been confirmed there are enough specimens to run the ordered tests.
8. If there is no identifiable source patient (unknown source), the event will be treated as an unknown exposure with the appropriate follow-up.

The exposed employee will be notified (by the EH Nurse or the Nursing Supervisor) of all the source patient lab results as soon as they are available (HIV is a rapid test and the result is usually available 1-2 hour after it is received in the lab). If the exposed employee has not heard from EH or the Nursing Supervisor within 2-3 hours of the specimen being received in the lab, please call EH or the Nursing Supervisor.

After hours: if the Rapid HIV test result is negative, the exposed employee will need to contact the EH Nurse on the next business day for the additional follow-up and additional source patient results.

If the source patient is **positive for HIV, immediate follow-up is necessary.** During regular business hours the EH Nurse will arrange for immediate follow-up; after hours, holidays and weekends, the Nursing Supervisor will direct the exposed employee to go to the ED for evaluation and follow-up. If post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is indicated, time is critical.