LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER -
SHREVEPORT

Patient Exposure To Blood and Body Fluids

Purpose:

To provide policy and procedure for patient exposure to blood/body fluids.

1. When a patient has been exposed to another person’s blood or body fluids, the patient’s physician, the supervisor of the unit, the Director of the unit, the House Manager, and the Infection Control Practitioner (ICP) shall be notified immediately if during working hours. If after hours, on weekends, or holidays, the House Manager will facilitate the process. The occurrence is documented on a variance report completed by the Charge Nurse of the unit/area. Testing of the exposed patient is the responsibility of the patient’s attending physician at the time of the incident.

2. The exposed patient who wishes to consider taking prophylactic therapy for HIV exposure must be evaluated by his/her physician within the hour so that HIV prophylactic therapy can be offered. If physicians have any questions, the Infectious Disease physician on call is consulted.

3. It is not necessary to obtain consent for drawing the blood from the source person nor is a physician’s order needed.

4. The charge nurse will assure that appropriate blood work is drawn (red top tubes) from both source person and the exposed patient. This process is facilitated by the Infection Control Practitioner from 8:00-4:30 Monday through Friday and the House Manager after hours, on weekends, and on holidays. The ICP is available by beeper if consultation is needed.

5. The Patient Exposure Protocol Packet is available from Infection Control Department and is obtained from the ICP or the House Manager. This packet consists of manual lab requests and labels for both the exposed patient and the source patient.

6. When the packet is obtained, the House Manager or the ICP will record the following information in the Patient Exposure Log Book located in the Infection Control Department.

   A. Exposed patient’s name, address, phone number, and medical record number
   B. Source’s name, address, phone number, and medical record number
   C. Date and time of exposure
   D. Type of exposure
7. The exposed patient’s blood will be drawn by the charge nurse/designee.

8. If the source person is a patient, the patient’s blood will be drawn by the Charge Nurse/designee.

9. Specimens are processed using the Exposure Protocol Packet.
   A. Specimens are labeled with a source number.
   B. Manual request is completed.
   C. Patient’s blood is sent to the clinical lab for processing immediately.

10. If the source person is an employee, the blood will be drawn by Occupational Health during regular business hours or in the Emergency Room after hours and on holidays.
11. The lab results are sent to the Infection Control Department.

12. The lab report should be forwarded to Risk Management to be filed with the variance report. It is not part of the patient’s chart.

13. The patient’s primary physician is responsible for following the patient post-exposure and implementation of the appropriate medical therapy immediately, including ordering medication from the Pharmacy as soon as possible.

14. Should the source or exposed patient’s blood test positive for any bloodborne disease, the Infection Control Practitioner will notify the source patient’s physician, the exposed patient’s physician, and Risk Management. If the source person is an employee, the Occupational Health physician will also be notified.

15. The physician shall document the appropriate follow-up in the physician progress notes. If there are questions, the Infectious Diseases Department is consulted.

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Administrator

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Date

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