



Flowchart for Management of Occupational Exposures to Bloodborne Pathogens

Before an Exposure Occurs...		
Dental Worker	Employer / Infection Control Coordinator	Qualified Healthcare Provider
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Receives training in risks of occupational exposures, immediate reporting of injuries/exposures, and reporting procedures within the practice setting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establishes referral arrangements and protocol for employees to follow in the event of exposures to blood or saliva via puncture injury, mucous membrane, or non-intact skin ○ Trains occupationally exposed employees in postexposure protocols ○ Makes available and pays for hepatitis B vaccine for workers at occupational risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contracts with dentist-employer to provide medical evaluation, counseling, and follow-up care to dental office employees exposed to blood or other potentially infectious materials ○ Keeps current on public health guidelines for managing occupational exposure incidents and is aware of evaluating healthcare provider's responsibilities ethically and by law
When an Exposure Incident Occurs...		
Dental Worker	Employer / Infection Control Coordinator	Qualified Healthcare Provider
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Performs first aid 2. Reports injury to employer 3. Reports to the designated healthcare professional for medical evaluation and follow-up care, as indicated 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Documents events in the practice setting 2. Immediately directs employee to evaluating healthcare professional 3. Sends to evaluating healthcare professional: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ copy of standard job description of employee □ exposure report □ source patient's identity and bloodborne infection status (if known) □ employee's HBV status and other relevant medical information □ copy of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Bloodborne Pathogens Standard 4. Arranges for source patient testing, if the source patient is known and has consented 5. Pays for postexposure evaluation, and, if indicated, prophylaxis 6. Receives Written Opinion from evaluating healthcare professional <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Files copy of Written Opinion in employee's confidential medical record (if maintained by the dentist employer) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluates exposure incident, worker, and source patient for HBV, HCV, and HIV, maintaining confidentiality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Arranges for collection and testing (with consent) of exposed worker and source patient as soon as feasible (if serostatus is not already known) □ In the event that consent is not obtained for HIV testing, arranges for blood sample to be preserved for up to 90 days (to allow time for the exposed worker to consent to HIV testing) □ Arranges for additional collection and testing as recommended by the U.S. Public Health Service/CDC □ Notifies worker of results of all testing and of the need for strict confidentiality with regard to source patient results □ Provides counseling □ Provides postexposure prophylaxis, if medically indicated 2. Assesses reported illnesses/side effects 3. Within 15 days of evaluation, sends to the employer a Written Opinion, which contains (only):* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ documentation that the employee was informed of evaluation results and the need for any further follow-up □ whether HBV vaccine was indicated and if it was received <p>* All other findings or diagnoses remain confidential and are not included in the written report.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Receives copy of Written Opinion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Provides copy of Written Opinion to exposed employee 	