

Policy#: 0112	JWCH Institute, Inc. Policies & Procedures	Approved By: Dr. P. Gregerson, CMO A. Ballesteros, CEO
Policy Title: Post Exposure to Blood Borne Pathogen: Evaluation and Follow Up	 <p>S2: C-2 Click here to return to Standards Page</p>	Effective Date: July 2010
Distribution: All Clinics		Date Revised:
		Manual: Exposure/Infection Control

POLICY

Following report of an exposure incident to blood/body fluids, JWCH Institute, Inc. provides the exposed employee with a confidential medical evaluation. The Nurse Supervisor ensures that a medical provider and schedule necessary follow-up examine the employee. The Employee Health Nurse Manager oversees this process that includes the following:

- Documentation of route(s) of exposure and the circumstances under which the exposure incident occurred.
- Identification and documentation of the patient source unless the source is unknown.
- The exposed employee and source individual’s blood shall be collected as soon as feasible and tested after consent is obtained.
- Testing of patient source blood for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV to determine infectivity and VDRL status (if patient approves). Test results of patient source shall be made available to the exposed employee, followed by written notification within fifteen (15) days of evaluation completion.
- Test results are maintained confidentially in the employee health record.
- Exposed employee is tested Complete Hepatitis Panel and HIV; also, VDRL and LFT shall be done. If exposed employee consent to baseline blood collection, but does not give consent at that time for HIV serologic testing, the sample shall be preserve for 90 days by the contracted laboratory. If, within 90 days of the exposure incident, the employee elects to have the baseline sample tested, such testing shall be done as soon as feasible.
- JWCH Institute, Inc. provides to the exposed employee counseling and evaluation of reported illness.

PROCEDURE

1. Initial first aid is provided to the exposed employee. Wounds and skin sites that have been in contact with blood or body fluids shall be washed with soap and water; mucous membranes should be flushed with water. There is no evidence that the use of antiseptics for wound care or expressing fluid by squeezing the wound further reduces the risk of HIV transmission. However, the use of antiseptics is not contraindicated. The application of caustic agents (e.g. bleach) or the injection of antiseptics or disinfectants into the wound is not recommended.
2. Employee informs Nurse Supervisor immediately or as soon as after first aid is provided, that an exposure incident have occurred. If the exposed employee works in a JWCH Clinic Facility, the Clinic Administrator will inform the Chief Nursing Officer or Chief Medical Officer where the employee is being seen.
3. Nurse Supervisor takes History and assists employee fill-in forms. Doctor’s First Report of Work Injury Form, the Claim for WC Benefits (DWC form) sections 1 through 8, as well the Exposure Incident Report. It is important to complete the section regarding information on the source of exposure as completely as possible to expedite the incident investigation. If source patient is still in the facility, explain to the patient what has occurred and ask them to stay.