

SHARPS INJURY

(or any other contamination incident involving HUMAN BLOOD/BODY FLUIDS)

URGENT ACTION to be taken

Immediate action should be taken as follows:

- Wash the site liberally with soap and water (without scrubbing)
- Irrigate mucous membranes/conjunctivae with large quantities of water
- Bleeding must be encouraged for puncture wounds. Do not suck the site.
- Report the incident immediately to your “supervisor”.
- Assess the risk as follows (this may be with the help of your “supervisor”)

The following can be considered **LOW** risk exposures:

- Exposure of **intact** skin to any contaminate body fluids.
- Exposure via any route to body fluids other than blood eg urine, vomit, saliva and faeces.
- Exposure to body fluids/blood from a source known to be negative for blood borne viruses (HepB, HepC and HIV).
- For HepB virus exposure, regardless of the HepB status of the source, the staff/student is not at risk if they have shown an adequate antibody response following vaccination.

The following can be considered **HIGH** risk exposures:

- Exposure of body fluids involving percutaneous injury, contact with broken skin or the mucous membranes.
- Exposure to blood/body fluids from a subject known or strongly suspected to be at high risk of being infected with a range of blood-borne viruses.

Immediate action will be necessary based on the results of the risk assessment.

If the “source” patient is available it may be considered appropriate (following a full explanation and with informed consent) to ensure that comprehensive personal details are obtained from the “source” patient and for a blood sample to be taken which should be sent to nearest virology laboratory to be tested for HepB, HepC and HIV with a request for an urgent response.

To obtain urgent advice:

Weekdays 9.00 – 4.30

South Campus

Waterloo Place

Tel: 0161-275-2858

waterloocchealth@manchester.ac.uk

North Campus

The Mill

Tel: 0161-306-5806

millocchealth@manchester.ac.uk

Outside Hours and Bank Holidays:

Contact the A&E Department of your nearest hospital. At the earliest opportunity report the incident to Occupational Health with all available details on the next working day.

PLEASE NOTE:

Comprehensive advice is available on our website: <http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=9751>