

**ADVISORY 12.1: NEEDLESTICK, OTHER PERCUTANEOUS AND MUCOUS  
MEMBRANE EXPOSURES**

**POLICY**

UC Health Employee Health and Wellness Clinic (UCHEHWC) will be responsible for epidemiological surveillance and management of all potential exposures to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Hepatitis B and C by a needlestick, a body fluid splash, or a sharp injury from a source with known or suspected infection. UCHEHWC will recommend and offer post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) in accordance with Public Health Service recommendations.

**PROCEDURE**

- A. Appropriate wound care should be implemented immediately by the employee or student, i.e., wash the injury site and apply antiseptic. If the exposure is mucous membrane (i.e., eyes), copious irrigation with tap water should be performed immediately for 15 minutes.
- B. An employee or student who sustains an injury with a needle or sharp object, or sustains a mucous membrane splash with blood or other body fluid must report the exposure IMMEDIATELY.
- C. It is imperative that exposures be reported **IMMEDIATELY**. If indicated, post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) should be started as soon as possible after the exposure.
- D. Source Patient: Whenever the patient, who is the source of the exposure (source patient) can be identified, the employee or their supervisor must notify UCH immediately at 513-585-8000 so that an HIV consent form is completed and required blood tests are ordered (if not already available). Required lab tests on the source patient include: HIV antibody (4<sup>th</sup> generation test) and Needlestick Profile I (includes Hepatitis B Surface Antigen (HBsAg), and Hepatitis C Antibody).

**Source Patient Consent**

Consent for HIV testing on source patients should be obtained in accordance with UC Health's policy on HIV testing. The physician who orders the tests (attending or resident physician) is responsible for appropriate pre- and post-test counseling with regards to HIV testing.

If the source patient is unknown, the employee should be evaluated for PEP and notified of any required follow-up lab work.

**E. Employee Exposures**

The employee must report the incident immediately to UC Health Employee Health and Wellness Clinic at 513-585-8000 when an exposure occurs. Blood will be drawn for the following tests: HIV antibody and Needlestick Profile II (includes Hepatitis B surface antigen, Hepatitis B surface antibody, and Hepatitis C antibody). Consent must be requested and obtained for HIV testing to be done. Appropriate counseling and treatment will be provided.

If the injury or exposure occurs at a location other than the UC Health, the employee must notify the UCH Employee Health and Wellness so that the source patient labs can be obtained.

All employees with exposures will be offered Hepatitis B vaccine unless previously known to be immune, and tetanus toxoid booster, if needed.

F. **Student Exposures**

It is essential to report any blood or body fluid exposure immediately to ensure the exposed student receives proper care and to obtain the necessary blood samples from the source patient for testing. Students must inform both their UC College/Department and the designated contact at the site where the exposure took place.

1. Follow the [Emergency Needlestick/Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Process](#) outlined by University Health Services.
2. Adhere to the rotation site's procedure for reporting the incident. The rotation site is responsible for coordinating the source patient's laboratory.
3. The injured student should comply with the guidelines of their personal medical insurance when obtaining medical care for their exposure.