Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan

Introduction

Blood or other potentially infectious materials (OPIM) contain bloodborne pathogens that can cause diseases such as the Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), Hepatitis C Virus (HCV), and the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Exposure to bloodborne pathogens can pose a significant health hazard to employees. Departments that supervise employees which are subject to occupational exposure are required to develop a bloodborne pathogens exposure control plan (BPECS). Department supervisors are required to identify employees who may be at risk of exposure; develop engineering controls and work practices; provide training and personal protective equipment (PPE); and comply with the additional responsibilities outlined in OP 34.22.

Exposure Control

A variety of controls should be implemented to effectively eliminate or minimize the risks of infection; including standard precautions, engineering controls, work practices, PPE, sanitary conditions, infectious waste management, laundry procedures, and labels and signs. Departments will develop detailed controls and incorporate them in both the written plan and employee training.

Written Plan

The Office of Environmental Health, Safety and Risk Management (EHSRM) is responsible for developing the BPECS template document, which is used by departments to implement their programs. Departments are responsible for reviewing and updating their plan as necessary.

Training

Annual education/awareness training will be provided on this subject and should be implemented and documented by applicable departments in accordance with OP 34.22.

Preventative Measures

- Cover all cuts, abrasions, and other areas of non-intact skin.
- Cover all exposed skin with appropriate PPE such as safety glasses, face shields, respirators, dust masks, boot covers, or impervious clothing may be necessary, if the potential for splashing, splattering, or a spill exists.
- Never handle waste with bare hands; leather provides better protection than rubber gloves.
- Avoid physical contact with bio-hazardous waste, whether in red bags or sharps containers. Always wear gloves to move these items and avoid direct contact with hazardous material.
- Be aware of the possible presence of bio-hazardous waste or OPIM when cleaning machinery or equipment. In particular, be aware that sharps can become stuck in

equipment, and can pose hazards to operators and maintenance workers. Where possible, use some implement or cleaning method other than your hands. If you do have to use your hands, wear gloves and NEVER REACH WHERE YOU CAN'T SEE.

- Always wash hands after removing gloves, even if you have not been in direct contact with hazardous materials.
- Always wash before eating, drinking, smoking, or putting anything in your mouth.

Reactive Measures

- If exposed to blood or OPIM; report the incident and immediately take actions to prevent further exposure and limit contamination to others.
- If you come in contact with infectious waste, wash your hands and any exposed skin thoroughly in warm water and soap or in waterless antiseptic cleaner.
- Remove clothing, boots, and gloves that have been in contact with infectious waste as soon as possible, taking care to avoid contact with skin surfaces. Use gloves to remove items.
- The risk of disease from contaminated clothing is very low but should still be handled as little as possible. While wearing gloves, place clothes in a leak proof bag and laundered according to manufacturer's instructions. Boots and leather goods may be brush-scrubbed with soap and hot water to remove contamination.

Bloodborne Pathogen Spills

It is the responsibility of department personnel to routinely clean up minor spills, accidents, or incidents involving blood or OPIM in the laboratory. Custodial staff are responsible for cleaning up minor spills in lavatories and residential areas and to sanitize all areas where a spill has occurred. Large or complicated spills should be reported immediately to EHSRM to arrange for appropriate cleanup and disposal.

Exposure Incidents

Employees who are involved in exposure incidents during normal business hours should be directed to immediately obtain medical treatment. Students who are involved in exposure incidents should be directed to report to the University Clinic for treatment. After normal business hours, employees and students should be referred to the nearest emergency medical treatment facility. Visitors should always be directed to obtain treatment at the nearest emergency medical treatment facility.

Recordkeeping

Departments maintain training records for three years from the date of training. Training records include the contents of the training session, and an attendance sheet that includes the names, job titles, and dates of those trained. Departments also maintain all medical records on employees to include vaccination declination waivers, vaccinations, and occupational exposure incidents.