

BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

Judy Owen-O'Dowd

Exposure

- A needlestick, or
- A nonsexual contact that:
 - Exposes the person's nonintact skin or mucous membrane to the blood or body fluids of another person, *and*
 - The contact is of a nature that it would pose a significant risk of transmission of HIV or Hepatitis B, if the other person were infected with those viruses.
- Applies in all exposures
- 10A NCAC 41A .0202(4)

Definitions

- Source person: contributes the blood or body fluids to the exposure incident.
- Exposed person: individual who has the needlestick or the nonintact skin or mucous membrane exposure to the blood or body fluids.

Definitions

● **Significant risk of transmission**

- Needle stick
- For all other exposures must consider:
 - The type of body fluid or tissue;
 - The volume of body fluid or tissue;
 - The concentration of pathogen;
 - The virulence of the pathogen; and
 - The type of exposure, ranging from intact skin to non-intact skin, or mucous membrane.
- Reference: 10A NCAC 41A .0201(f)

Steps

- Determine if exposure constitutes significant risk of exposure
- Identify source
 - Known Source
 - Attending physician of exposed person notifies the attending physician of the source
 - Attending physician of the source discusses the exposure with the source and offers testing for HIV and Hepatitis B
 - Attending physician of the exposed person is notified of results

Steps

- Known Source (cont'd)
 - Attending physician of exposed discusses results (repeats offer for testing if not previously tested) and follow-up
 - If source infected, prophylaxis offered if within 72 hours of exposure (not required by rules, but CDC recommendation)
 - Gives control measures to exposed person
 - Instructs regarding confidentiality

Steps

- Unknown Source

- The attending physician of the exposed persons shall inform the exposed person of the risk of transmission and offer testing for HIV infection as soon as possible after exposure and at reasonable intervals up to one year to determine whether transmission occurred.
 - Recent data suggests testing for 3 months is sufficient
 - CDC recommends assessing information about where and under what circumstances the exposure occurred . Certain situations as well as the type of exposure might suggest an increased or decreased risk.

Bites

- Is skin broken?
- Does the biter have bleeding gums?
- If blood present, who was exposed to the blood?

Criminal Defendants

● Ordinary Exposure:

- Judicial official finds probable cause that an individual was exposed to the defendant in a manner that would pose a significant risk, judicial official orders the defendant to be held for up to 24 hours
- Public health officials make determination of significant risk of exposure and order testing accordingly
- GS 15A-534.3

Criminal Defendants

● Sexual defendant

- Probable cause must be found
- Victim request tests
- District Attorney petitions court for testing
- Court orders tests
- Local health department tests if defendant not in DOC custody
- Local health director ensures that victim is informed of test results and counseled appropriately
- GS 15A-6615