



SECTION: GENERAL INFECTION CONTROL

NUMBER: 1.6

THE CONTROL OF OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURES TO BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

POLICY: The University of Connecticut Health Center has implemented Bloodborne Pathogen Training in compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Standard as outlined in 29 CFR 1910.1030, Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens. The director, manager, or supervisor of each major clinical area is responsible for full compliance with the Occupational Exposure of Bloodborne Pathogens Standard, 29 CFR 10.1030 and the Department of Health and Human Services and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

PROCEDURE: 1. OSHA Regulation 1910.1030, d, (2), (ix) was developed to ensure the protection of health-care providers from occupational exposure to blood or body fluids and other potentially infectious materials and to prevent subsequent transmission to patients and visitors. The standard discusses specific methods to provide health-care workers with that protection: work practices, engineering controls and personal protective equipment. The standard also acknowledges the responsibility of health-care workers to adhere to practices to protect themselves, patients, and visitors.

The bloodborne pathogen standard states 1910.1030, d, (2), (ix), "...eating, drinking, smoking, applying cosmetics or lip balm, and handling contact lenses are prohibited in work areas where there is a reasonable likelihood of occupational exposure."

We are defining work areas where there is reasonable likelihood of occupational exposure as; any patient care area, charting area, or areas where specimens or other potentially infectious specimens may be located. Eating and drinking in the workplace must be restricted to areas where patients, families and visitors are not allowed (such as break rooms).

According to standard 29 CFR 1910.132 and 1910.136 29 CFR 1910.136(a) requires the use of protective footwear when employees are working in areas where there is a danger of foot injuries due to falling or rolling objects, or objects piercing the sole.

Bloodborne Standard, 1910.1030 section (d)(3)(i) requiring that employees ensure protective foot gear is worn to provide protection from potential needle sticks, splashing from blood or OPIM (Other Potentially Infectious Materials) spills.

In accordance with these 2 OSHA standards, footwear with ports or holes that can potentially expose the employee to injury and/or bloodborne pathogens will no longer be allowed for employees who are involved in direct patient care or potentially exposed to blood or body fluid.

2. All employees who are identified as occupationally exposed or potentially occupationally exposed to blood or potentially infectious materials will receive training which includes the following:
 - a. A general explanation of the OSHA Standard and location of this document.
 - b. A general explanation of the epidemiology and symptoms of bloodborne diseases.
 - c. An explanation of how bloodborne diseases are spread.



- d. An explanation of the Health Center's Exposure Control Plan for the prevention of bloodborne diseases. This plan may be reviewed on computer at <http://ors.uchc.edu>
 - e. An explanation of work practices, engineering controls and personal protective equipment that will prevent or reduce contact with bloodborne diseases. Refer to the policy Standard Precautions Number 1.2.
 - f. Information on the types and proper use of personal protective equipment and where they are kept. Also the proper ways to remove, handle, clean and dispose of protective equipment.
 - g. An explanation of how to select the proper personal protective equipment for individual work needs.
 - h. Information on the Hepatitis B vaccine including its effectiveness, safety, number of doses, and the benefits of being vaccinated. The vaccine and vaccination are given free of charge to potentially exposed employees.
 - i. Information on what to do and who to call in an emergency involving blood or potentially infectious materials.
 - j. An explanation of the procedure to follow if the employee has an exposure, how they should report the accident, where to go for evaluation and the medical care that they can expect to be given.
 - k. Information on the post-exposure evaluation and follow-up that the employer is required to provide for the employee following an exposure incident.
 - l. An explanation of the signs, labels, and color coding used to identify biohazardous material.
 - m. An explanation of the special requirements for HIV/HBV research and production laboratories.
3. Opportunity to accept or decline Hepatitis B vaccine or to inform the trainer of immunity to Hepatitis B. Vaccine will be given free of charge through Employee Health Services. If declined, the employee continues to be at increased risk of acquiring Hepatitis B. The employee may change his/her decision and receive the Hepatitis B vaccination series at any time without charge.
 4. Annual training for all employees shall be provided within one year of their previous training (and is provided by use of computer based training system).

REFERENCE: Occupational Safety and Health Standard 29 CFR 10.1030, 1992. OSHA Instruction, Effective date November 27, 2001.

University of Connecticut Health Center Policy for the Control of Employee Occupational Exposures to Bloodborne Pathogens and Exposure Control Plan.

APPROVAL: Infection Control Committee

REVISION DATES: 12/08



University of Connecticut Health Center
John Dempsey Hospital
Infection Control Manual

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