

SECTION: NURSING SERVICES

POLICY#: 413 Exposure to Blood and Body Fluids

POLICY: Central Valley Health District will follow necessary steps when an employee is exposed to blood or body fluid to assure appropriate follow-up of staff sustaining exposure to blood and body fluid and to minimize the risk of acquiring blood borne pathogens.

PROCEDURE:

1. All employees must report injuries and exposures to their supervisor immediately. (No later than 24 hours).
2. The supervisor will obtain a history of the incident in order to substantiate the exposure. An employee incident report will be completed, which includes documentation of the route(s) of exposure and the circumstances under which the exposure occurred.
3. Body fluids to which universal precautions apply are: blood, semen, vaginal secretions, human tissue, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluids, pleural fluid, peritoneal fluid, pericardial fluid, and any body fluid containing visible blood. Body fluids to which universal precautions do not apply are feces, nasal secretions, sputum, sweat, tears, urine, and vomitus.
4. The nursing supervisor will use the following guidelines to ensure that appropriate follow-up is completed:
 - a. If there has been a valid exposure and the source of exposure is known, HIV and Hepatitis studies should be performed on the source individual. If testing of the source is not possible, follow-up care for the exposed employee is recommended by referral to employee's personal medical provider or CVHD health officer for possible prophylaxis treatment.
 - b. If exposure is significant and testing is necessary, the exposed employees or their agent will request the source individual to be tested for Hepatitis B (HBsAg) and HIV.
5. If source individual agrees to testing:
 - a. Informed consent must be obtained prior to drawing the specimen.
 - b. HIV and Hepatitis B counseling and testing will be done according to procedure.
 - c. Exposed employee will be notified of source individuals results will be documented on incident report, if disclosure consent is signed by source.
6. The exposed employee will be offered HIV counseling and testing.