



Health Care Settings and Viral Hepatitis



The delivery of health care has the potential to transmit Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and Hepatitis C virus (HCV) to both health care workers and patients. Outbreaks of HBV and HCV infection have occurred in outpatient settings, hemodialysis units, long-term-care facilities, and hospitals, primarily as a result of unsafe injection practices; reuse of needles, fingerstick devices, and syringes; and other lapses in infection control. To prevent transmission of bloodborne pathogens, health care workers should adhere to recommended standard precautions and fundamental infection-control principles, including safe injection practices and appropriate aseptic techniques.

For continued protection, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that health care and public safety workers with reasonably anticipated risk for exposures to blood or infectious body fluids receive the complete Hepatitis B vaccine series and have their immunity documented through postvaccination testing.

Guidelines and Recommendations

Infection Control

Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities

(<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5210a1.htm>)

Recommendations of CDC and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC), MMWR 2003;52(RR-10)

See separate sections on:

[Diabetes and Viral Hepatitis: Important Information on Glucose Monitoring \(GlucoseMonitoring.htm\)](#)

[Hemodialysis \(Hemo.htm\)](#)

[Injection Safety \(http://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/\)](http://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/)

Occupational Health

Management of Occupational Exposures to HBV, HCV, and HIV and Recommendations for Postexposure Prophylaxis (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5011a1.htm>)


MMWR 2001;50(RR-11)

Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Infection and HCV-Related Chronic Disease (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00055154.htm>)

MMWR 1998;47(RR-19)

Bloodborne Infectious Diseases: HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B Virus, and Hepatitis C Virus (<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/bbp/>)

Key resources from CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

[Occupational Safety and Health Standards: Bloodborne pathogens—Regulation 1910.1030](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=10051) 
(http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=10051)



OSHA regulations pertaining to all occupational exposures to blood or other potentially infectious materials

Vaccination

[Hepatitis B Vaccination Guidelines for Adults](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5516.pdf)  [PDF - 40 pages]

(<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5516.pdf>)

ACIP recommendations; address vaccination and postvaccination testing of health care and public safety workers, MMWR 2006;55(RR-16)

[Immunization of Health-Care Workers](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/RR/RR4618.pdf)  [PDF - 51 pages]

(<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/RR/RR4618.pdf>)

Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the Hospital Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC), MMWR 1997;56(RR-16)

[State Immunization Laws for Health care Workers and Patients](http://www2a.cdc.gov/nip/StateVaccApp/statevaccsApp/default.asp)

(<http://www2a.cdc.gov/nip/StateVaccApp/statevaccsApp/default.asp>)

Searchable database of state immunization laws

Program Resources

[Hepatitis C Investigation in a Las Vegas, Nevada Endoscopy Clinic \(NevadaOutbreak.htm\)](#)

Related Pages

- **CDC**

[Healthcare-associated Infections \(HAIs\)](http://www.cdc.gov/hai/) (<http://www.cdc.gov/hai/>)

[Injection Safety](http://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/) (<http://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/>)

[National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/) (<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/>)

- **Federal** 

[Occupational Safety & Health Administration](http://www.osha.gov)  (<http://www.osha.gov>)

- **Other**

[National Clinicians Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Hotline \(PEpline\)](http://nccc.ucsf.edu/about_nccc/pepline/) 

(http://nccc.ucsf.edu/about_nccc/pepline/)

Hotline providing clinicians with 24-hour guidance on managing occupational exposures to HIV, viral hepatitis, and other bloodborne pathogens

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Content source: [Division of Viral Hepatitis and](#)

[National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention](#)

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