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Institution Name: Directorate General for Disease Surveillance and Control/ Department of Infection Prevention and Control

Document Title: Prevention and Management of Blood and Body Fluids Exposure in the Healthcare Facilities

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Acronyms:

A/E	Accident and Emergency department	
BBVs	Blood Borne Viruses	
DIPC	Department of Infection Prevention and Control	
HBV	Hepatitis B Virus	
HCF	Healthcare Facility	
HCV	Hepatitis C Virus	
HCWs	Health Care Workers	
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus	
ID	Infectious Diseases	
IP	Infection Preventionist	
IP&C	Infection Prevention & Control	
IPCD	Infection Prevention & Control Department	
IVDU	Intravenous Drug User	
МоН	Ministry of Health	
PEP	Post-Exposure Prophylaxis	
PHC	Primary Health Care	



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Prevention and Management of Blood and Body Fluids Exposure in the Healthcare Facilities

1. Introduction

Occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens from needlesticks and other sharps injuries is a serious problem, but it is often preventable. All healthcare workers are potentially at risk of exposure to blood and/or body fluids. It is acceptable that all blood and body fluids are potentially infective, therefore, implementation of standard precautions and awareness about the management of such exposure is important in order to reduce the risk of transmission of blood-borne pathogens.

2. Scope

This policy and procedures are applicable to all MoH healthcare facilities and others under its supervision.

3. Purpose

3.1. To standardize the process of reporting and managing the blood and body fluids exposure in the different health care facilities.

3.2. To ensure implementation of preventive measures and safe practices with the relevant

processes.

4. Definitions

4.1. Percutaneous Injury: A needle stick or other sharp instrument accidentally

penetrates the skin.

4.2. Mucocutaneous Exposure: exposure of a mucous membrane (eyes, nose, or mouth) or chapped, abraded, or dermatitic skin to blood and/ or body fluids those are potentially

infectious.



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- 4.3. Sharps: Any item that can puncture/cut the skin, which may cause laceration or wounds, such as needles, sharp-edged instruments, surgical blade, broken glassware, razors, sharp tissues such as spicules of bone and teeth.
- 4.4. Blood borne viruses (BBVs): are micro-organisms if present in human blood or body fluids, they have the potential to cause disease in the exposed. The main blood borne viruses of concern in this policy are hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).
- 4.5. Exposed Person: Refers to the person who got pricked by sharps (needlestick) or exposed to blood and /or body fluids.
- 4.6. The source patient: Refers to the person whose blood or body fluids may have contaminated the exposed person.
- 4.7. Significant exposure: is an unprotected exposure to blood or body fluid which come into direct contact with; tissues under the skin (i.e. needle stick, human bites), non-intact skin (eczema, cuts skin), mucous membranes (eyes, nose, mouth).
- 4.8. Low significant exposure: is exposure to blood or body fluids, which come into contact with intact skin, if the source is negative for hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV.

5. Policy

- 5.1. Infection prevention & control section/department in the governorate and different healthcare facilities must ensure implementation of this policy and procedures.
- 5.2. The central DIPC should ensure the implementation of this policy at national level.
- 5.3. The central DIPC should be responsible for updating this policy at least every 3 years.

6. Procedure

6.1. Prevention of Potential Exposure:

6.1.1. Safe use and disposal of sharps:

6.1.1.1. Dispose the sharps immediately and don't permit their passing from hand to hand.



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- 6.1.1.2. Prohibit walking around with sharps on hands.
- 6.1.1.3. Avoid placing sharps on the surfaces.
- 6.1.1.4. Avoid dismantling needle and syringe manually. They should be disposed off as a single unit.
- 6.1.1.5. If re-sheathing is required, then to use single hand "scoop" technique.
- 6.1.1.6. Ensure safe needle practices
 - 6.1.1.6.1. **Do not** recap,
 - 6.1.1.6.2. Do not re-sheathing,
 - 6.1.1.6.3. **Do not** bend,
 - 6.1.1.6.4. **Do not** manually remove,
 - 6.1.1.6.5. **Do not** transport and do not re-use.

6.1.2. Sharps containers:

- 6.1.2.1. Make sure any sharp must be disposed of in an approved sharps container only.
- 6.1.2.2. Provide sharp container at the point of use in all clinical areas.
- 6.1.2.3. Ensure the accessibility to a sharp container before conducting any procedures.
- 6.1.2.4. Place the sharp containers above floor level and away from public and out of children reach.
- 6.1.2.5. Avoid filling sharp containers more than 3/4 full.
- 6.1.2.6. Seal properly and store the sharp container in a secured place away from patient care areas as per the facility policy.

6.1.3. Safe practice:

- 6.1.3.1. Ensure that all health care workers are immune against hepatitis B virus or otherwise documented as non-immune or non-responder.
- 6.1.3.2. Cover any non-intact skin before dealing with blood and body fluids.



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- 6.1.3.3. Ask for help when using sharp for uncooperative or confused patient.
- 6.1.3.4. Avoid using sharps whenever alternatives are available.
- 6.1.3.5. Disposable gloves should be worn if exposure to blood or body fluids is anticipated.

6.2. Management of Exposure: see annex (3)

- 6.2.1. First aid (Exposed person)
 - 6.2.1.1. Percutaneous exposure:
 - 6.2.1.1.1. Allow the site to bleed.
 - 6.2.1.1.2. Do not squeeze or suck the wound.
 - 6.2.1.1.3. Wash well under running water and liquid soap.
 - 6.2.1.1.4. Cover the wound with a waterproof dressing.
 - 6.2.1.2. Mucocutaneous exposure:
 - 6.2.1.2.1. Remove contaminated clothing if necessary.
 - 6.2.1.2.2. Flush/ irrigate site with copious amounts of water.
- 6.2.2. Reporting the Exposure (Immediate in-charge)
 - 6.2.2.1. Report the incident to the shift in-charge and/ or immediate supervisor.
 - 6.2.2.2. Filling first part of the Accidental Exposure Form. See annex (2)
 - 6.2.2.3. Inform infection prevention & control department.

6.2.3. Medical Management:

- 6.2.3.1. Proceed to the treating physician, staff health clinic or Accident & Emergency (A&E) for further management if the risk is significant.
- 6.2.3.2. Risk assessment should be done to assess the need for any post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). See annex (1) (4)
- 6.2.3.3. Assess the source for personal risk factors associated with BBV such as:
 - 6.2.3.3.1 High risk sexual activities.
 - 6.2.3.3.2 Present or past history of intravenous drug use.



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- 6.2.3.3.3 Visit country of origin known to have a high prevalence of BBV infection.
- 6.2.3.3.4 Multiple blood transfusions.
- 6.2.3.4. Collect blood sample from the source if known and the exposed person. See table (1)

Table (1): The following table describes the schedule of serial blood tests that need collection from the source and the exposed persons

Pathogen	Test Source		Exposed Persons						
	Markers	Baseline (at time of exposure)	Baseline (at time of exposure)	6 weeks' post Exposure	3 months post exposure	6 months post exposure			
Hepatitis BV	HBsAg Anti-HBs	HBsAg	HBsAg Anti-HBs		HBsAg	HBsAg			
Hepatitis CV	Anti-HCV	Anti-HCV	Anti-HCV		Anti-HCV	Anti-HCV			
(if source Hepatitis C positive)	LFT		LFT*		LFT*	LFT*			
HIV	Anti -HIV	Anti -HIV	Anti- HIV	Anti- HIV	Anti- HIV	Anti- HIV			

- 6.2.3.5. In primary health care institutions, collect blood samples from source and exposed person and urgency according the risk assessment. See (Accidental Exposure Form) and if exposed person need PEP please refer to emergency department of governorate hospital.
- 6.2.3.6. Counsel the exposed person regarding the risk of transmission of bloodborne pathogens and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)
- 6.2.3.7. Advise exposed person to follow up the result of blood investigation. (First one as baseline then after six weeks, three months and six months).
- 6.2.3.8. Keep the result strictly confidential.
- 6.2.3.9. Assess immediately the exposed person, if the source patient is found or known to be HIV positive or known with high risk behavior and status unknown;



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- 6.2.3.9.1. Counseling regarding risk of HIV.
- 6.2.3.9.2. Start PEP.
- 6.2.3.9.3. Urgent referral to HIV/ID physician for follow up.

Note: for detailed guidance and further information kindly refer to HIV Management Guideline in Oman. Chapter XII: Occupational exposure to HIV. See annex (5)

6.2.3.10. Further Post Exposure Management: please refer to algorithm. See annex (4)

6.3. Reporting to Infection Prevention and Control (IP&C)

- 6.3.1. All exposure events should be reported to IP&C department/ section in the health care facility immediately to guide further management.
- 6.3.2. All exposure events should be reported to regional IPC focal point and to Central Infection Prevention and Control Department level within the following time frame. See table (2)
- 6.3.3. All exposure events in the health care facilities should be reported to the central DIPC on quarterly base in the excel form attached annex (6) through email: infectioncontroloman@gmail.com

Table (2) Reporting exposure events based on risk categories:

Category	Source Result	Report at regional level	Report at Central level
Group A (Should be reported within 24 hours)	If known case of; HIV, HBV, HCV, Viral Hemorrhagic fever	Call infection control focal person Consult physician or Infectious Diseases (ID) physician to start prophylaxis treatment	• Inform central DIPC oncall number 91313315
Group B (Should be reported within 48 hours)	If unknown case and result is releasing positive of; HIV, HBV, HCV	Call infection control focal person Consult physician or Infectious Diseases (ID) physician to start prophylaxis treatment	• Inform central DIPC oncall number 91313315
Group C	If result of HIV, HBV, HCV are negative	Report monthly	Report quarterly



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7. Responsibilities

7.1. **All HCWs**:

- 7.1.1. Ensure that HCWs are aware and understand the safe handling of sharps and post exposure procedures.
- 7.1.2. Be responsible for seeking immediate management and reporting of the events.
- 7.1.3. Be responsible for follow up as directed by the Infection control focal point/ treating physician.

7.2. Managers/Supervisors

- 7.2.1. Ensure that all staff are aware of the policy and its implementation.
- 7.2.2. Ensure that risk assessments are carried out in their areas.
- 7.2.3. Ensure arrangements are in place for the supply and safe disposal of sharps boxes.
- 7.2.4. Ensure that the exposed staff has received the appropriate first aid.
- 7.2.5. Release exposed staff immediately from work to attend treating physician, A&E department or staff clinic for immediate management.
- 7.2.6. Ensure that all exposures that occur are reported internally as per the Institute's incident reporting policy.
- 7.2.7. Inform infection control team.
- 7.2.8. In primary health care, the incidence should be reported to the regional of infection control focal point.
- 7.2.9. Fill first part of the accidental exposure form.

7.3. Exposed Person:

- 7.3.1. Undertake immediate first aid. See annex (7)
- 7.3.2. Staff must report the expose to the nurse in-charge of the clinical area or their supervisor/manager.
- 7.3.3. Report the exposure to the treating physician in A&E department or staff clinic for management.
- 7.3.4. Follow up the investigation result and attend ID clinic if referral has been needed.



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7.4. Treating Physician:

- 7.4.1. Assess exposure significance and obtain blood samples accordingly.
- 7.4.2. Assess the need for post exposure prophylaxis and refer the exposed person if requires specialized management to ID clinic.
- 7.4.3. Provide relevant counselling and support to the exposed person.
- 7.4.4. Complete an accidental exposure form within 24 hours and send it to the infection control department.
- 7.4.5. Strict confidentiality of the incident should be maintained.

7.5. Infection Control team

- 7.5.1. Ensure all HCWs are aware of this policy and its implementation in the HCF
- 7.5.2. Maintain an exposure data base updated regularly with the details of all forms of exposure, including date, place and device type. See annex (6)
- 7.5.3. Perform risk assessment for each individual event.
- 7.5.4. Ensure the necessary counseling for the exposed person was given.
- 7.5.5. Ensure that the follow up investigations are performed as per Table (1).
- 7.5.6. Ensure that the overall evaluation of the incident and its management are done and entered into the data base.
- 7.5.7. Perform analysis of the data and prepare exposure statistics report to be shared with the IPC committee and concerned departments.
- 7.5.8. Maintain an updated HCWs' vaccination records.
- 7.5.9. Report the incidents data base quarterly to the central DIPC, MoH as indicated.

7.6. Laboratory

7.6.1. Blood investigation linked to an exposure event should be processed on an urgent basis.



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Note: The degree of urgency of testing is variable according to the following;

- 7.6.1.1. Most urgent is for high risk source patient baseline testing. The high risk is defined as patients who are known intravenous drug user IVDU, homosexual or coming from high endemic countries for HIV, HCV or HBV with no previous negative test after arriving to Oman. For this group ONLY, testing should be done within next 24 hours (preferably at local laboratories to prevent delay due to transport issues).
- 7.6.1.2. Urgent testing (within 36-48 hours) should be also offered to other unknown source patient baseline samples when the exposure is highly significant and source status is unknown
- 7.6.1.3. Testing of the exposed person baseline blood is NOT very urgent, can be done on the first next working day at local laboratories.
- 7.6.2. Verbal communication of positive results immediately to the IPC focal point/ oncall followed by the official report no later than 48 hours.

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8. Document History and Version Control

	I	Document History and Version	on Control		
Version	Des	scription of Amendment	Author	Review Date	
01	Initial Relea	se	DIPC	February / 2021	
02					
03					
04					
05					
Written b	y	Reviewed by	Approved by		
Jabir Al-Se	Al-Sooti Taskforce team		H.E Dr. Moha	ammed Bin Saif	
Nasser Al-Shaqsi		Dr. Amal Al-Maani	Al-Hosni		
		Dr. Seif Al-Abri			

9. Related Documents:

No related document.



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10. References:

Title of book/ journal/ articles/ Website	Author	Year of publication	Page
GCC-Infection Prevention & Control Manual 2 nd edition- Hepatitis B Immunization for Healthcare Workers (ICM-VI-07)	Ministry of National Guard- Health Affairs - KSA	2013	
Infection Prevention and Control – Sharps Procedure http://www.mhsc.nhs.uk/media/52325/sharps%20policy.pdf	Manchester mental health and social care trust	2013	
Sharps Policy Safe Use and Disposal of Sharps and Management of Contamination Injuries http://www.rdash.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Sharps-Policy-v5-CQSG5.1.2016.pdf	NHS foundation trust- England	2016	
Blood Borne Virus Policy file:///C:/Users/user/Downloads/hssp011_blood_borne_virus_in cluding the management of inoculation_sharps and contamin ation_incidents_policy.pdf	Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust- England	2015	
Preventing Needlestick Injuries among Healthcare Workers www.who.int/occupational health/activities/5prevent.pdf	WHO–ICN Collaboration	2004	
Needle Stick Injuries and Health Workers: A Preventable Menace https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4145516/	AO Adefolalu	2014	
Updated U.S. Public Health Service Guidelines for the Management of Occupational Exposures to HBV, HCV, and HIV and Recommendations for Postexposure Prophylaxis https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5011a1.htm	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	2001	
Infection control Manual- Management for Needlestick Injury	King Khalid University Hospital- KSA	2009	



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Annex (1): Recommended Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) for Hepatitis B Virus

	Source Patient Status								
Exposed person Status	HBsAg Positive	HBsAg Negative	Unknown						
Unvaccinated	HBIGx1 and initiate HB vaccine series.	Initiate HB vaccine series.	Initiate HB vaccine series.						
Previously vaccinated a. Known responder	No HBV prophylaxis. Reassure.	No HBV prophylaxis. Reassure.	No HBV prophylaxis. Reassure.						
b. Known non- responder	HBIGx1 and initiate revaccination, Or HBIGx2**	No HBV prophylaxis. Reassure.	If known high-risk source, treat as if source were HBsAg positive.						
Antibody response unknown	Test exposed person for anti-HBs: 1. if adequate, no treatment 2. if inadequate, HBIGx1 and vaccine booster.	No HBV prophylaxis. Reassure.	Test exposed person for anti-HBs: 1. if adequate, no treatment 2. if inadequate, vaccine booster and recheck titer in 1–2 months						

Legend:

- ** The option of giving one dose of HBIG and reinitiating the vaccine series is preferred for Non-responders who have not completed a second 3-dose vaccine series. For persons who previously completed a second vaccine series but failed to respond, two doses of HBIG are preferred, one dose as soon as after exposure and the second dose 1 month later.
 - · HBsAg: Hepatitis B surface antigen.
 - HBIG: Hepatitis B Immunoglobulin.
 - HB vaccine: Hepatitis B vaccine to be given IM in the deltoid muscle.
 - Anti-HBs: Antibody to hepatitis B surface antigen.
 - Responder is defined as a person with adequate serum levels of anti-HBs (≥ 10 mlU/ml) tested 1-2 months after vaccine completion
 - Non-responder is defined as a person with inadequate response to vaccination serum Anti-HBs levels ≤ 10 mlU/ml as tested 1-2 months after vaccine completion (2 series).
 - A booster dose may be given at 12 months to those at continuing risk of exposure to HBV. (after completion of a primary course by using recommended schedule).
 - Initiate HB vaccine series mean administer Hepatitis B vaccine at 0, 1, and 6 months
 - Unknown source (e.g. needle from a sharps disposal container, splash from inappropriately disposed blood).



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Annex (2): Accidental Blood and Body Fluids Exposure Reporting Form

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Exposed Person Source					W AF								
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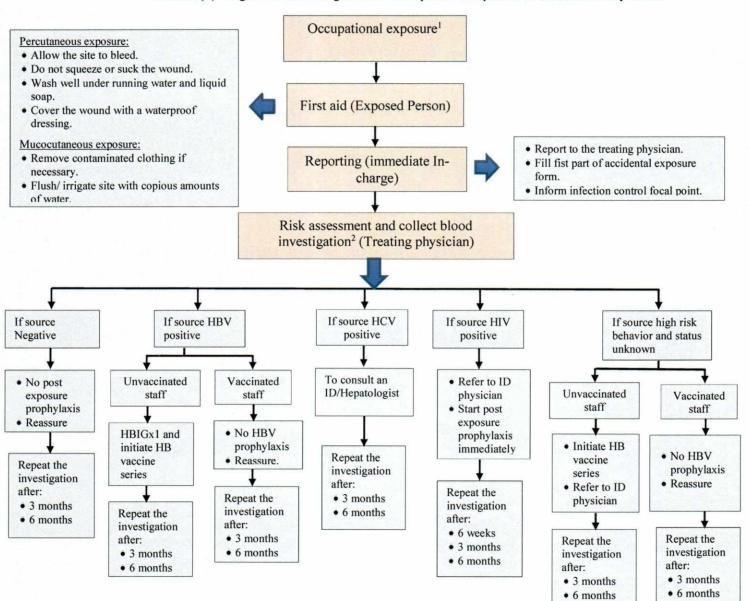
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	For	Infection	Preve	ntion an	d Cont	trol Use			
Date of Injury	/					porting		/	/
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Test		Source				Exposed P	erson		
lest	Test Markers	Day of Exposure		ay of	100	er Six eeks	After Thre Month	e	After Six Month
Hepatitis B	HBsAg Anti-HBs		-				/ /		
Hepatitis C *(if source HCV positive) HIV	Anti-HCV *LFT Anti-HIV								
				ent Starte	ed				
Hepatitis B immunoglobulin	Date	of Receivin	g			Dose	Given		
(If source is HBV+ and exposed person not immunized / non-responder)		/ /							
Date of		1st dose			2nd o	lose		3rd	dose
Hepatitis B vaccine Post vaccination	De	ate of Test			< 10 IU	J/mL	+	> 10 I	U/mL
Anti-HBs level		/ /				IU/m			IU/m
Anti-retro Viral Medication		of Receivin	_	Name o			Dose S	Started	l
(If source known to HIV)	Date	of Stopping	E	3			3		
HCV or/and HIV sourd. Refrain from donating be Pregnant or lactating we Presonal items such as to Sexual intercourse shou	lood, semen omen should oothbrushes	, plasma or to be advised a s and razors	issue against	breast fe	eding	Expla	ined	Not	Explained
. Sexual Mercourse Show		ion Prevent		10 :	17.				
nfection Prevention and C	ontrol Name	ı:					Signature	:	
1. Post vaccination service. 2. Personnel who do no month following the service about the following counseled about the first source known to person and not later. 5. If source known to F.	ot respond to last vaccinal apletion of to result and to HIV, anti-re- than 72 hos	to the primar tion. he 2 vaccine the important tro viral med urs.	ry vacc e series ce of st lication	the Ant andard po to be sta	should i-HBs larecautic arted as	be revaccing evel is <10 lons. s soon as po	ated and t U/mL, the ssible with	e emplo	o Anti-HBs oyee should hrs for expo
person if not vaccins 6. If source known to H		A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR					r-up LFT fo	or expo	sed person.



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Annex (3): Algorithm of management of occupational exposure to blood and body fluids



Legend:

¹Percutaneous Injury: A needle sticks or other sharp instrument accidentally penetrates the skin.

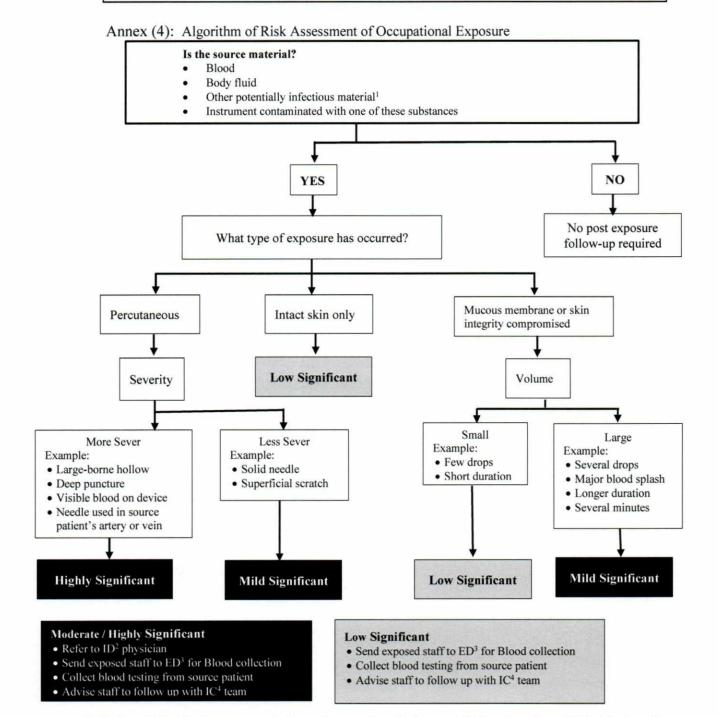
¹Mucocutaneous Exposure: exposure of a mucous membrane (eyes, nose, or mouth) or chapped, abraded, or dermatitis skin to blood.

²Blood investigation: Exposed person: HBsAg, anti-HBV, anti-HCV, anti-HIV, LFT* Source person: HBsAg, anti-HCV, anti-HIV

^{*}LFT if source person is positive HCV.



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¹⁻Infectious Materials: Semen or vaginal secretion, cerebrospinal, synovial, pleural, peritoneal ²⁻ID: Infectious Disease ³⁻ED: Emergency Department ⁴⁻IC: Infection Control

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Annex (5): HIV Management Guideline in Oman. Chapter XII: Occupational exposure to HIV- page 108-109

12.1 Establishing eligibility for PEP

Individuals are eligible for HIV PEP if the following 4 criteria are met:

- 1. Exposure occurred within the past 72 hours.
 - PEP is more effective when given within the first 72 hours following exposure.
 - A first dose of PEP drugs should be made readily available to potentially exposed individuals (starter dose).
 - 2. The potentially **exposed individual is not infected** or not known to be infected with HIV.
 - HIV infection of the exposed person should first be ruled out by using rapid testing. However, an HIV test should NOT be a condition for initiating PEP, nor should PEP be delayed until the results of an HIV test become available (unless rapid testing is used).
 - Mucous membrane or non-intact skin was significantly exposed to a
 potentially infected body fluid (see section 9.1);
 - Type and size of the needle or sharp instrument.
 - The amount of blood or body fluids or tissues to which the individual was exposed.
 - Whether injury was with a sharp object and whether the wound bled
 - Whether the injury was through gloves or clothing.
 - When the exposure occurred.
 - Personal risk for acquiring HIV infection.
 - 4. The source is HIV-infected or the HIV status is unknown

Following first aid, the exposed person **should immediately report the incident** to the designated person (HIV focal point [Annex 4] and infection prevention and control focal point). The designated person should report the incidence using form MR-4.



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12.2 PEP medicine regimens

NRTIs	NNRTI	PI
TDF+3TC		LPV/r
AZT+3TC		LPV/r
TDF+3TC		ATV/r
AZT+3TC		ATV/r
	TDF+3TC AZT+3TC TDF+3TC	TDF+3TC AZT+3TC TDF+3TC

12.3 Duration of PEP and follow-up

Duration: 28 days

Follow-up:

- To monitor adherence and to identify and manage side effects.
- HIV test after completing PEP to diagnose seroconversion.

12.4 Other considerations:

12.6.1 HIV testing in the source patient

If there is no recent positive or negative serology available, serology for HIV should be done along with serology for HBV and HCV.

12.6.2 Monitoring and counseling after PEP

<u>HIV serology</u>: HIV serology should be performed at the time of injury and repeated at 6 weeks, 3 months and 6 months. It should also be repeated at 12 months in HCW who acquired HCV with the injury, since this may delay HIV seroconversion.

<u>Viral load:</u> This is not recommended due to the high rate of false positive results. This should be done in patients with a febrile illness consistent with ARVS.

<u>Precautions to potential transmission</u>: The HCWs should be advised to practice safe sex or abstain and to avoid donating blood until serology is negative at 6 months after exposure. The greatest risk is first 6-12 weeks.

<u>Time</u>: PEP should be initiated as quickly as possible, preferably within 1-2 hours of exposure and up to 72 hours post-exposure.

<u>Side effects</u>: Nausea, fatigue, headache, vomiting and diarrhea are likely in individuals who receive PEP.



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Annex (6): Reporting of Post-Exposure to Blood and Body Fluids

Reported by:

Directorate General for Disease Surveillance & Control Department of Infection Prevention & Control													
		Reporti						ody Fluids					
	Governor	ate:		Institu	ition Nar	ne:		Date:	//				
Sr. No	Date of Incident	Designation	Ward/ Unit	Device Used	Site of Injury	Lab Result		Immunization Status	Post-Exposure Prophylaxis				
				34									



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Annex (7): Poster of post exposure management of blood and body fluids exposure

Post Exposure Management of Blood and Body Fluids Exposure

