



Accidental Exposure to Blood / Body Fluids

These guidelines are to be followed in the event of a sharp injury or contamination incident. These may be defined as:

- Inoculation of blood by a needle or other sharp.
- Contamination of broken skin with blood.
- Blood splashes to mucous membrane e.g. eyes or mouth.
- Swallowing a person's blood e.g. after mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.
- Contamination where clothes have been soaked by blood.
- Body exudates or secretions through a wound or sore.
- Human bites or scratches.



The risk of transmission of infection from a needlestick injury is low. When a sharps injury or contamination incident occurs:

Immediately:

1. Encourage bleeding from the wound by gently squeezing (do not suck the wound).
2. Wash the wound in soap and warm running water (do not scrub).
3. Cover the wound with a dressing.
4. Irrigate eye or mouth splashes with plenty of water or saline.
5. Dispose of any sharps involved safely.
6. Report the incident immediately to a Station Officer/Supervisor/CSO and complete an incident report form.
7. If the source of the injury is known document the details of person(s) involved.
8. All incidents must be reported to Control immediately, who will inform the Manager (or Duty Officer out-of-hours).

As soon as possible (but within an hour):

9. Inform your Station Officer/Supervisor/CSO.
10. The receiving/nearest A&E department must be informed and blood samples will be taken from the member of staff and patient (providing they give consent).
11. Contact the Occupational Health Department for advice and follow-up on post-exposure prophylaxis, including booster injections. Out of normal hours this advice is available from the local Accident & Emergency Department.
12. Station Officer/Supervisor/CSO should ensure that the injured person receives appropriate immediate assistance from Occupational Health or A&E.