

PURPOSE

These guidelines support the *Health and Safety Policy* and *Health and Safety Management Standards* and provide guidance for the care, reporting and follow-up of recipients who have been exposed to blood or body fluids through incidents involving sharps.

DEFINITIONS

Exposure	Contact with blood or body fluid contaminated with blood
Source	The person whose blood or body fluid was inoculated or splashed onto the recipient. (This person may not always be identifiable)
Recipient	The person exposed to blood or body fluids
Sharps/Needle-stick	Any object capable of inflicting penetrating injury

1. Immediate First Aid

- 1.1 If the skin has been penetrated by a sharp object, wash the area well with soap and water or if this is not available, wash the area well with alcohol based skin rinses or foams of 60-90% alcohol
- 1.2 If intact skin is contaminated with blood or body fluids, wash the area with copious amounts of soap and water
- 1.3 If the eyes are contaminated with blood or body fluids, wash the eyes gently but thoroughly with water or normal saline
- 1.4 Should blood or body fluids spray into the mouth, spit out the blood or body fluids, then rinse the mouth several times with water
- 1.5 Stem any high volume blood loss by compression and elevation of the area

2. Medical Intervention and Follow-up

- 2.1 If a sharps injury, eye contamination or mouth contamination have occurred, refer the recipient to the Curtin Health Service or their own General Practitioner for assessment and review
- 2.2 Dependent on assessment of the exposure, the Medical Practitioner may request blood tests immediately and after six months to determine the infection status of the recipient.
- 2.3 The Medical Practitioner may also; dependent on assessment of the exposure, require that anti-retroviral medications be taken for a period of 4 weeks.
- 2.4 The Medical Practitioner may refer the recipient to the Curtin Counselling Services for follow-up emotional support

3. Reporting of the Incident

- 3.1 It is a requirement of Curtin University that all incidents or near misses including needle stick/sharps incidents are reported through the incident management system by the recipient or their delegate. Refer link below.

4. Ongoing Emotional Support

4.1 Workers or students are encouraged to refer the recipient to the Curtin Counselling Services for follow-up emotional support. For more information please refer to the link below.

EXEMPTIONS

Nil

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS/LINKS

[Health and Safety Policy](#)

[Health and Safety Management Standards](#)

Curtin Online Incident and Hazard Reporting

https://healthandsafety.curtin.edu.au/event_and_hazard/index.cfm

Curtin Counselling Service

<https://students.curtin.edu.au/personal-support/counselling-guidance/>

Curtin Health Service

<https://students.curtin.edu.au/personal-support/health/>

CONTACT DETAILS

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