



Needle-stick and BBP Exposure
Awareness: Stay Sharp!

FIU Biosafety Office
305.348.3387



What is a Needle-stick?

- Wounds caused by needles or other sharp objects (scalpels, razors, or broken glass) that puncture the skin
- Injury can occur when you use, disassemble, or dispose of these items. Sometimes injury can occur through unexpected encounters (improper disposal)



What are the hazards?

- Needle-stick injuries have the potential of spreading blood-borne pathogens (BBPs), such as Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), and Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)
- Exposure risk to BBPs after injury:
 - HBV 6-30% without immunization
 - HCV 1.8%
 - HIV 0.3%



FIU Blood-borne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan

- Per the OSHA BBP Standard, it is important to follow the guidelines specified in the FIU BBP Exposure Control Plan
- Following these guidelines can help minimize the risk of infection after a needle-stick or sharp injury



What are the guidelines?

- The guidelines consist of the three “P”s:
- **Preparation**
- **Prevention**
- **Exposure Procedures**



Preparation

- Departmental exposure control plan
 - Each department is required to create a control plan specific for their area. The plan should:
 - Identify job classifications, tasks and procedures in which exposures may occur
 - Provide procedures for preventing and responding to exposures
 - Be readily accessible to employees

*NOTE: Use the template provided in Section 7.0 of the FIU BBP Exposure Control Plan



Preparation (2)

- Training
 - Each department is required to provide training **within 10 days** of the hire date (or reassignment), and refresher training annually.
 - The following training courses available online and/or in person through the EH&S Safety Training Program:
 - Blood-borne Pathogens Exposure Control
 - Needle-stick Prevention: Stick to Safety
 - Contact the Safety Education Coordinator at 305.348.1421 to register or for more information



Preparation (3)

- Vaccination
 - Employers are required to offer the Hepatitis B Vaccination series free of charge to employees
 - Hepatitis B Vaccination consists of three shots (0 days, 3 months, and 6 months)
- *NOTE: Employees who wish to decline the vaccination must complete a Declination Statement (Appendix B in the FIU BBP Exposure Control Plan)



Preparation (4)

- Reporting
 - Procedures must be in place for reporting and recording needle-stick or sharp injuries
 - Per OSHA, injuries must be logged (record date, time, task, type of instrument that caused injury)
 - Response procedures, emergency contact information, and first aid kits should be clearly posted



Prevention

- Use Universal Precautions
 - Consider all needles and sharps as potentially infectious and handle them with care
 - Wash your hands immediately after handling anything that may be contaminated with infectious materials
 - Use gloves and protective clothing (overalls, lab coat, etc) in areas where items could be contaminated
 - Limit the use of needles and syringes to situations where there are no other alternatives



Prevention (2)

- Use Safe Handling Techniques
 - Never shear, break, bend, or recap a needle
 - Direct the sharp end away from yourself and others
 - Dispose of needles and sharps in the proper containers
 - Never reach into or overfill a sharps container





Prevention (3)

- Adhere to Safety Precautions
 - Do not put your unprotected hands where you cannot see. You never know when there might be a hidden needle
 - Avoid compressing trash against your body or with your hands
 - Carry trash bags gently by the top, away from the body



Prevention (4)

- Get vaccinated!
 - Hepatitis B vaccination can provide protection after exposure to HBV
 - Check with your professional medical provider about the vaccination
 - Let your supervisor know if you would like to receive the vaccination





Exposure Procedures

I have a needle or sharp injury, what do I do?

- Administer first-aid
 - Wash the area thoroughly with warm water and soap
- Call the Needle-stick Emergency Response line 305.279.7722 and seek immediate medical attention
 - Some treatments must begin right away to effectively prevent infection (within 24 hours)
- Report the incident to your supervisor and the EH&S Biosafety Office (305.348.3387)
- Follow procedures for filing a Worker's Compensation claim
 - Obtain all required paperwork from the medical provider
 - Go to FIU Worker's Compensation website to file claim. For questions, call 305.348.7960



Q and A

- Q: Who should I contact if a sharp container is too full, there is no sharp container available, or a sharp is improperly disposed?

A: Call the Biosafety Officer at 305.348.3387



Q and A

- Q: Where can I find procedures for exposure prevention and post-exposure follow-up?

A: FIU BBP Exposure Control Plan



Q and A

- Q: I would like to receive the HepB vaccination. What do I do?

A: Inform your supervisor that you would like to receive the vaccination, and it will be coordinated at no cost to you.



Q and A

- What are my rights regarding confidentiality and incident investigation following an exposure?

A: Findings or diagnoses not required on the Physician's written medical opinion shall remain confidential. Medical records shall not be disclosed to anyone without the employee's written consent, unless permitted by law



Resources

- FIU Blood-borne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan
- 29 CFR 1910.1030 OSHA Blood-borne Pathogen Standard
- National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Publication No. 2000-108. Preventing Needle-stick Injuries in Healthcare Settings