

Occupational exposures to blood-borne pathogens policies and reference guide

Policies and guidelines

Title	Access	Comments
NSW Health Department policies		
HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C- management of Health Care Workers Potentially Exposed	https://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/ActivePDS/Documents/PD2017_010.pdf	NSW Health Policy Directive to assist health services to appropriately assess and manage a health care worker following an occupational exposure in order to prevent disease transmission.
<i>Occupational Assessment, Screening and Vaccination against Specified Infectious Diseases</i> PD2020_017 Publication date 27 May 2020	https://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/ActivePDS/Documents/PD2020_017.pdf	Provides a framework for immunisation and screening of health care workers, other clinical personnel and students to minimise the risk of transmission of vaccine preventable diseases
<i>HIV, Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C - Health Care Workers Infected.</i> PD2019_026	https://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/ActivePDS/Documents/PD2019_026.pdf	Policy Directive prescribes how the Australian National Guidelines for the management of healthcare workers living with blood borne viruses and healthcare workers who perform exposure prone procedures at risk of exposure to blood borne viruses
<i>Infection Prevention and Control Policy.</i> Policy Directive PD2017_013	http://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/Pages/doc.aspx?dn=PD2017_013	Outlines the broad principles of infection control. Most clinical health professionals are obliged to comply with this policy as requirements for their registration
<i>Work Health and Safety - Blood and Body Substances Occupational Exposure Prevention</i> GL2018_013	https://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/Pages/doc.aspx?dn=GL2018_013	Provides guidance in the prevention of risk to staff of occupational exposure to contaminated blood, body substances and needlestick/sharps injuries. It supports NSW Health Agencies in their primary duty of care obligations under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017
<i>Consent to Medical Treatment and Healthcare Treatment</i>	https://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/ActivePDS/Documents/IB2020_010.pdf	This is a state-wide Policy Manual that provides operational guidance and procedures to support compliance with the NSW law on obtaining consent to medical and healthcare treatment from patients or their substitute consent providers.

NSW Nurses Association		
<i>Policy on HIV/AIDS and Other Blood Borne Pathogens.</i>	https://www.nswnma.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/NSWNMA-Policy-on-HIV-AIDS-and-other-Blood-Borne-Viruses.pdf	Re-endorsed 2020. Outlines rights of patients and nurses with regard to blood borne pathogens including testing and managing exposures. While not binding, the Association would support nurses who are attempting to comply with the policy
<i>NSW : Hepatitis NSW</i>	https://www.hep.org.au/	Website for public and HCW on viral hepatitis
Australian government policies and guidelines		
Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing <i>National HIV testing policy 2017</i> <i>National hepatitis C testing policy 2017</i> <i>National hepatitis B testing policy 2016</i>	http://testingportal.ashm.org.au/	These national policies have been endorsed to replace earlier versions of NSW Health policies so are mandatory for NSW Health staff. They include guidelines on informed consent for testing
Australasian Society of HIV Medicine (ASHM). <i>National guidelines for post-exposure prophylaxis after occupational and non-occupational exposure to HIV: 2nd edition.</i> 2016	http://www.ashm.org.au/products/product/978-1-920773-47-2	Outlines the management of individuals who have been exposed (or suspect they have been exposed) to HIV. There is also a poster, patient information sheet and literature review at this link
Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI). <i>Australian Immunisation Handbook</i> , Australian Government Department of Health, Canberra, 2018	https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/	Clinical advice for health professionals on the safest and most effective use of vaccines in their practice
National Health and Medical Research Council <i>Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare.</i> 2019	https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/australian-guidelines-prevention-and-control-infection-healthcare-2019	Recommendations that outline the critical aspects of infection prevention and control.
Communicable Diseases Network Australia <i>Australian National Guidelines for the Management of Healthcare Workers Living with Blood Borne Viruses and Healthcare Workers who Perform Exposure Prone Procedures at Risk of Exposure to Blood Borne Viruses.</i>	http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cda-cdna-bloodborne.htm	Specifies recommendations for testing of health workers doing exposure prone procedures and restrictions on health workers infected with HIV, hepatitis B or hepatitis C.

Australian Government; Department of Health and Ageing. June 2018		
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Useful Australian websites

Cameron S. <i>Guide to Australian HIV laws and policies for healthcare professionals</i> . Australasian Society for HIV Medicine. 2012	http://hivlegal.ashm.org.au/	This resource aims to provide health care workers with information on legal and ethical responsibilities under various laws and regulations related to HIV
Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory. <i>HepBHelp</i>	http://www.hepbhelp.org.au/	This website aims to assist Australian GPs in the further investigation and management of patients diagnosed with chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection. Includes a guide to interpreting HBV serology
Hepatitis Australia.	https://www.hepatitisaustralia.com	General information for public and health workers in viral Hepatitis.
The Kirby Institute for Infection and Immunity in Society (Australia)	https://kirby.unsw.edu.au/	Annual surveillance reports on HIV and hepatitis and other publications