

Useful references for potential occupational exposures to blood-borne pathogens

Policies and guidelines

Title	Access	Comments
NSW Health Department policies		
HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C- management of Health Care Workers Potentially Exposed. PD2017_010	https://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/ActivePDSDocuments/PD2017_010.pdf	NSW Health Policy Directive to assist health services to appropriately assess and manage a health care worker following an occupational exposure to prevent disease transmission.
<i>Occupational Assessment, Screening and Vaccination against Specified Infectious Diseases</i> PD2023_022	Occupational Assessment, Screening and Vaccination Against Specified Infectious Diseases (nsw.gov.au)	To provide a framework for the assessment, screening and vaccination of all workers and students to reduce the risk associated with vaccine-preventable diseases in accordance with the risk category of their position.
<i>Management of health care workers with a blood borne virus and those doing exposure prone procedures.</i> PD2019_026	https://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/ActivePDSDocuments/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 in Healthcare Settings.</i> PD2023_025	Infection Prevention and Control in Healthcare Settings (nsw.gov.au)	This Policy Directive outlines the mandatory infection prevention and control requirements for NSW Health organisations (including inpatient, outpatient, outreach).
<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Consent to Medical Treatment and Healthcare Treatment - RESCINDED</i>	https://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/ActivePDSDocuments/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>	Policy-on-HIV-AIDS-and-other-Blood-Borne-Viruses.pdf (nswnma.asn.au)	Re-endorsed in 2023. 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
Hepatitis - NSW		
<i>NSW: Hepatitis NSW</i>	https://www.hep.org.au/	Website for public and HCW on viral hepatitis
Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing		
<i>Australian government policies and guidelines National HIV testing policy 2020 National hepatitis C testing policy 2023 National hepatitis B testing policy 2021</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
<i>Australasian Society of HIV Medicine (ASHM). Post-exposure prophylaxis after non-occupational and occupational exposure to HIV: Australian National Guidelines. 3rd edition. June 2023</i>	Home PEP Guidelines	Outlines the updated Australian recommendations for the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) following potential or known exposure to HIV in sexual, occupational, and non-occupational settings.
<i>Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI). Australian Immunisation Handbook, Australian Government Department of Health, Canberra, 2018</i>	https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/	Clinical advice for health professionals on the safest and most effective use of vaccines in their practice
<i>National Health and Medical Research Council Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare. 2019</i>	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.
<i>Communicable Diseases Network Australia 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. Australian</i>	CDNA National Guidelines – Healthcare Workers Living with Blood Borne Viruses / Perform Exposure Prone Procedures at Risk of Exposure to Blood Borne Viruses Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care	Specifies recommendations for testing of health workers doing exposure prone procedures and restrictions on health workers infected with HIV, hepatitis B or hepatitis C.

Government; Department of Health and Ageing. October 2019		
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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. <i>(under review)</i>	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
HIV/AIDS Legal Centre Inc. (NSW). <i>Guides to HIV and the Law</i>	Guides to HIV and the law (halc.org.au)	Series of HIV and the law guides by states, migration, women, probate, travel, and criminal transmission.
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). HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections in Australia: Annual surveillance report 2023	HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections in Australia: Annual surveillance report 2023 Kirby Institute (unsw.edu.au)	Annual surveillance reports on HIV and hepatitis and other publications (2023)