May 9, 2005

ATTN: Medical Health Officers and Branch Offices
Public Health Nursing Administrators and Assistant Administrators
Holders of Communicable Disease Control Manuals

Re: Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Management Guidelines

Please note the following revisions to the above guidelines:

Page 5, “Table 1: Fluids capable of transmitting bloodborne pathogens:”
  • Regarding breast milk and HBV transmission – in addition to the biological
    plausibility, particularly if nipples are cracked or bleeding, added statement
    “or if the mother is HBeAg positive.”

Page 5, Subsection 5.3.2 “Assess the risk of transmission from the source”
and
Page 9, Subsection 5.4 “Determine the HIV, HBV, and HCV status of the
exposed person:”
  • Instruction to advise the source and exposed persons that anti-HIV testing
    may be done nominally or non-nominally.
  • Addition of guidelines for obtaining informed consent from the source and
    exposed person for blood testing.

Page 18, Subsection 9.2 “HBV exposure:”
  • Deleted statement that HBIG can be given, if indicated for exposures
    occurring through consensual adult sex or sharing injection drug equipment.
    Only hepatitis B vaccine is to be given, if indicated. This recommendation is
    consistent with the revised guidelines for the control of hepatitis B.
HLTH 2339 “Management of Percutaneous or Permucosal Exposure to Blood and Body Fluid/Laboratory Requisition:"

- New note at top of form regarding option of non-nominal HIV testing and reference to the back of the last page of the form for guidelines for obtaining informed consent for blood tests
- New WCB billing code number

HLTH 2340 “Management of Percutaneous or Permucosal Exposure to Blood and Body Fluid Letter for Follow-Up Physician:"

- The notation “results of the above tests will determine the need for further testing” has been added following the section that specifies which baseline blood tests were performed.

Please delete and destroy the following pages from the Communicable Disease Control Manual – Chapter I Management of Specific Diseases:

Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Management
Pages 1 – 25 Dated April 2003

HLTH 2339 “Management of Percutaneous or Permucosal Exposure to Blood and Body Fluid/Laboratory Requisition” Dated January 2003

HLTH 2340 “Management of Percutaneous or Permucosal Exposure to Blood and Body Fluid Letter for Follow-Up Physician” Dated February 2003

Insert the following replacement pages:

Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Management
Pages 1 – 26 Dated May 2005

HLTH 2339 “Management of Percutaneous or Permucosal Exposure to Blood and Body Fluid/Laboratory Requisition” Dated April 2005
HLTH 2340 “Management of Percutaneous or Permucosal Exposure to Blood and Body Fluid Letter for Follow-Up Physician” Dated August 2004

Note: stock of the HLTH 2339 and HLTH 2340 can be ordered from Warehousing Services, 742 Vanalman Avenue, Victoria BC, V8Z 3B5, by e-mail brian.mcneil@gems9.gov.bc.ca or by phone (250) 952-4439.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Karen Pielak, Nurse Epidemiologist, at telephone (604) 660-6061, fax (604) 660-0197 or by e-mail to karen.pielak@bccdc.ca

Sincerely,

David Patrick
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DMP/kka

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