

Date: 03/01/2017

To: All EMS Services and Providers

From: David Bailey, BS, NRP
EMS Coordinator

Re: EMS Occupational Exposures to Potentially Infectious Material

Despite efforts to reduce occupational exposures to blood/body fluids, mishaps do sometimes still happen. When a potential exposure does occur, it is often an emotionally difficult experience for the involved provider. The following is limited guidance for EMS providers regarding any potential occupational exposure to blood/body fluids and is intended to answer hospital-specific process questions and reduce confusion/anxiety in these situations.

If it is believed a significant exposure to potentially infectious material has occurred, we recommend the exposed worker be seen at the same receiving hospital the source patient was transported to. This greatly facilitates testing and obtaining results from the source patient.

During intake/triage at Hartford Hospital, the exposed healthcare worker should clearly communicate the reason for his or her visit is an occupational exposure to blood/body fluid from a patient being treated at Hartford Hospital. This will result in the visit being appropriately coded and care being fast-tracked.

The treating provider will assess the potential risk of the blood/body fluid contact. If indicated, the provider will request consent from the source patient for infectious disease testing.

If source patient testing is performed, some of the results may be available prior to the EMS provider being discharged while others may not. Certain tests may take up to a week for results. Requests for pending source patient results or requests for source patient testing should be directed to the Hartford Hospital EMS Coordinator and must be from either the EMS worker's occupational health provider (preferred) or his or her employer's designated infection control officer. The CT-DPH Commissioner has

designated the EMS infection control officer as the CEO listed on the most recent Certificate of Operation renewal application filed with OEMS (unless otherwise communicated to DPH - see CT-DPH OEMS memo dated 02/04/2015). The request should be signed and include:

- Name and DOB of the source patient and potentially exposed worker
- Specifics regarding the potential exposure
- Occupational health provider (with contact info) providing follow-up care

And a statement that the exposed worker:

- Has reported the exposure to the occupational health provider or emergency department no later than 48 hours after exposure.
- Is willing to have (or has had) his or her blood tested for HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C at baseline
- Is willing to take “meaningful action” (i.e. is willing to take prophylactic HIV medication) if recommended.

Please contact me (the Hartford Hospital EMS Coordinator) with any EMS blood/body fluid exposure-related request for results from a source patient and/or EMS worker treated at Hartford Hospital. If I am away, please follow any out-of-office reply instructions for an alternate point of contact. My contact information is:

David.Bailey@hhchealth.org

Office: 860-972-1180

Fax: 860-545-2030

If you are unable to reach me or do not receive a confirmation of your request within a reasonable time period, please contact our Infection Control Department for guidance at: 860-972-0321.

For concerns regarding potential airborne or droplet exposures (e.g. suspicion of active TB, bacterial meningitis, etc.), the EMS agency’s designated infection control officer should contact our Infection Control Department directly.