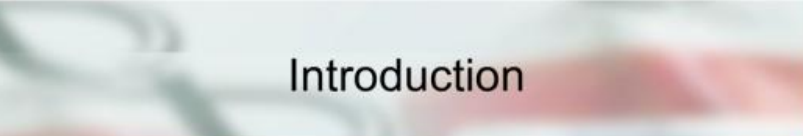




Bloodborne Pathogens— Reducing the Risk of Occupational Transmission

Presented by: Gallagher Bassett Services, Inc.



Introduction

- Bloodborne pathogen exposures can present a significant hazard in the workplace.
- The potential for exposure to bloodborne pathogens is present in nearly all places of employment:
 - School Districts
 - Manufacturing Plants
 - Most jobs in between

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Introduction

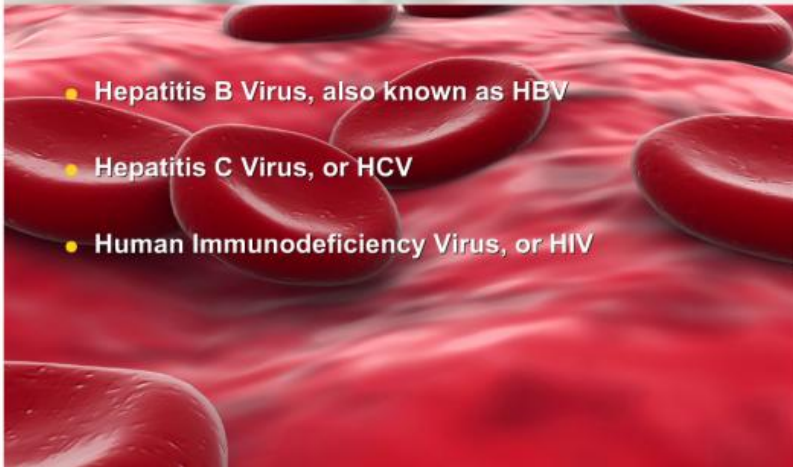
- Describe the different types of bloodborne pathogens;
- Explore the ways that they can be transmitted in the workplace;
- Review the requirements for having a formal Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan;
- Look at the requirements necessary for adequate personal protective equipment or PPE;
- Housekeeping Practices;
- Safe Work Procedures; and
- Measures for reducing exposures to bloodborne pathogens.



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Types of Bloodborne Pathogens

- Hepatitis B Virus, also known as HBV
- Hepatitis C Virus, or HCV
- Human Immunodeficiency Virus, or HIV



Types of Bloodborne Pathogens

- Hepatitis B is a serious disease caused by a virus that attacks the liver:
 - Lifelong infection
 - Cirrhosis or scarring of the liver
 - Liver cancer
 - Liver failure
 - Death
- Approximately 30% of people infected with Hepatitis B display no signs or symptoms.
- Once the disease accelerates, patients experience jaundice, fatigue, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, nausea and joint pain.

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Types of Bloodborne Pathogens

- Hepatitis C is a liver disease, which is found in the blood of persons who carry the disease.
- The Hepatitis C virus is spread through contact with the blood of an infected person.



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Types of Bloodborne Pathogens

- Hepatitis A, D and E are other variations of the Hepatitis disease.
- These types are not commonly found in the workplace.



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Types of Bloodborne Pathogens

- The Human Immunodeficiency Virus, also known as HIV, was identified in 1984.
- Human Immunodeficiency Virus is the virus that causes AIDS.
- Currently there is no cure for AIDS, though it should be noted that there are many drugs available to treat the disease.
- The Center for Disease Control estimates that approximately 40,000 people in the United States become infected with HIV each year.
- 15,000 dying annually from AIDS.



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Means of Transmission

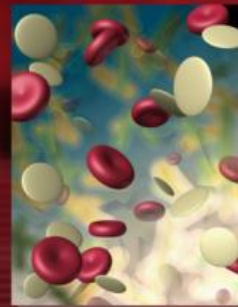
- In the workplace, bloodborne pathogens can be spread through:
 - Mucous membranes of your eyes, nose and mouth
 - Cracks or cuts in your skin
 - An object piercing your skin



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Means of Transmission

- Exposure does not guarantee transmission or infection.
- Infection depends on several factors:
 - The frequency and degree of the exposure
 - Your susceptibility—or the strength of your natural defenses—against the infection



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Prevention Strategies

- Always assume that *all* blood and other bodily fluids are infectious.
- Follow infection control precautions at all times.
 1. Use barriers:
 - Gloves and/or goggles
 2. Wash hands and other skin surfaces immediately after any contact with blood or bodily fluids.
 3. Always carefully handle the disposal of sharp instruments (such as contaminated equipment or first aid items like needles or scissors) during and after use.

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Prevention Strategies

- Safety devices have been developed to help prevent injuries occurring from the use of needles (commonly referred to as needle-stick injuries) and the disposal of bodily fluids.
- Sharps containers and large containers labeled as "Biohazard" are designed for the safe disposal of needles and waste contaminated with bodily fluids.
- When used properly, these types of devices may reduce the risk of exposure to HIV.
- Many bloodborne pathogen injuries are related to sharps disposal.
- Plans for post exposure management of health care personnel should be in place.

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Exposure Control Plan

- To prevent exposures to bloodborne pathogens in the workplace, it is important that employers maintain an Exposure Control Plan:
 - Helps in preventing exposure to bloodborne pathogens.
 - Educate employees on this hazard and the procedures to follow should an exposure occur.
 - Helpful in answering questions employees may have on the exposure and control of bloodborne pathogens.



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Exposure Control Plan

- The elements of the plan should include sections that cover:
 - An Exposure Determination Analysis
 - Compliance Methods
 - Engineering and Work Practice Controls
 - Personal Protective Equipment
 - Training Requirements
 - Availability and use of the Hepatitis B Vaccination
 - Post Exposure Evaluation and Follow-up Procedures
- It is important that this plan be updated on an annual basis.



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Requirements for Personal Protective Equipment

- The correct use of personal protective equipment is critical to keeping you safe from a bloodborne pathogen exposure.
- Whenever encountering blood or other potentially infectious materials (also known as OPIM), personal protective equipment should be worn.
- This equipment includes:
 - Gloves
 - Mask
 - Eyewear
 - Face shield
 - Non-absorbent smock or apron



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Requirements for Personal Protective Equipment

- Most employers maintain one or several bloodborne pathogen kits for employees to use.
- These kits include the personal protective equipment needed to address bloodborne pathogen exposure incidents.
- It is common to find a bloodborne pathogen kit housed in each building, and sometimes several kits per building, depending on the occupational exposures.



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Requirements for Personal Protective Equipment

- After encountering blood or other potentially infectious material, care should be taken when removing gloves and other personal protective equipment.
- Make sure none of the blood or other material comes into contact with you.
- When removing gloves:
 - Pinch the wrist of one glove, gently pulling your hand from that glove.
 - Hold the used glove in your other hand, which should still have a glove on it.
 - Using your free hand, slide your finger inside the wrist portion of the other glove and slowly peel the glove back, wrapping both gloves into a nice, neat package.
 - Dispose the gloves in the appropriate "Biohazard" container.

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Housekeeping

- Practicing good housekeeping significantly reduces your potential for exposure to bloodborne pathogens.
- Cleaning working surfaces with bleach and other disinfecting agents frequently, and after any bloodborne pathogen exposure, will help to keep exposures to a minimum.
- This is very important because some bloodborne pathogens can survive outside the body for an extended amount of time. For example, HBV can survive outside the body for 7 days and still be capable of causing infection.



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Housekeeping

- Before attempting to clean up a bloodborne pathogen exposure, always put on the proper personal protective equipment.
- A bleach solution or disinfectant should be applied to contaminated work surfaces, tools, objects or potentially infectious materials and left to soak for at least 10 minutes before cleaning up the surface.



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Housekeeping

- If the incident includes broken glassware, do not pick it up with your hands.
- Sweep or brush the material into a dustpan.



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Housekeeping

- Any known or suspected contaminated sharps should be discarded immediately in containers that are:
 - Closeable
 - Puncture-resistant
 - Leak-proof on the sides and bottom
 - Marked with an appropriate biohazard label



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Housekeeping

- Contaminated sharps containers that are being moved from the area of use should be closed immediately before removal or replacement to prevent spillage or protrusion of contents during handling, storage, transport or shipping.



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Safe Work Practices

- Following an exposure incident, employees should wash their hands or other affected skin areas with non-abrasive soap and water.
- Be sure to also flush mucous membranes (eyes, nose, mouth, cracks in your skin) with water as soon as possible following an exposure incident.



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Safe Work Practices

- In work areas where there is a reasonable likelihood of a bloodborne pathogen exposure, eating, drinking, smoking, applying cosmetics or lip balm or handling contact lenses *is prohibited*.
- Never break or share needles—*this is strictly prohibited*.
- All procedures involving blood or other potentially infectious materials should be performed in such a manner as to minimize splashing, spraying, splattering and generating any droplets.

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Hepatitis B Vaccination

- According to OSHA, all employees who have routine exposures to bloodborne pathogens must be offered an Hepatitis B Vaccination.
- Any employee who has encountered a bloodborne pathogen must be offered the Hepatitis B Vaccination.
- Employees who are offered the Hepatitis B Vaccination and refuse to accept it will be required to sign a "Declination of Hepatitis B Vaccine" as required by OSHA.
- The vaccination schedule most often used for adults and children involves three intramuscular injections.

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Quiz



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Conclusion

- While no one wants to encounter a bloodborne pathogen in the workplace, for many of us, it is just part of doing our job.

Be sure to always take the necessary steps to protect yourself and use your bloodborne pathogen training.



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Thank you

If you have any questions on the topic of Bloodborne Pathogens, be sure to ask your supervisor or your Gallagher Bassett Loss Control Consultant.



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