



Ramsay
Health Care

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MR0024462 RHC CGU Patient Information - Occupational Exposure DL 0221



Occupational Exposure

(Post exposure to Blood
or Body Fluids)

Patient Information



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I have been informed that another person has been exposed to my blood or body fluid? What does this mean?

This means that your blood or another body fluid has or may have entered the body of another person. This occurs through scratches, cuts or penetration injuries from any sharp implements such as needles or sharp instruments used in theatre, splashes of blood or body fluid that enters the mouth or eyes of another person or entry through broken skin / cuts / abrasions of another person.

I have been requested to give consent for blood tests—what blood tests are done?

Following any suspected exposure you will be requested to have a blood test to check for specific viruses that can be transmitted through exposure to blood and certain body fluids. These include Hepatitis B & C and HIV (the AIDS virus).

Do you request the same blood tests from all patients?

Yes. All patients are treated the same and the request to have a blood test is not a reflection of suspicion.

Is there any risk to me?

Occasionally the exposure / injury occurs during a surgical operation. When this occurs—how and where the incident occurred is immediately investigated and any possible cross contamination from the operating theatre personnel is identified.

If you were at any risk you would be immediately notified of the possibility and the operating theatre personnel would also have bloods collected for testing for Hepatitis B & C and HIV.

You would be contacted as soon as the results were reported by the Infection Prevention & Control Coordinator or your treating Doctor.

What happens with my results?

After you have had your blood collected it is sent to our laboratory for testing. Your doctor may wish to contact you regarding your results but this is not routine.

Your blood test results are confidential and will be kept in a confidential file with the record of the exposure incident.

If you would like a copy sent to your GP you can request this at any time after the incident.

What if I have any other questions?

If you have any other questions (whilst you are in hospital or even after you have been discharged home), you can ask to speak with the Facility Infection Prevention & Control Coordinator by contacting the hospital where the incident occurred.