

# HEALTH SERVICES POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL

North Carolina Department of Public Safety  
Prison

SECTION: Personnel – Employee  
Health

POLICY # P II-6

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SUBJECT: BBP Exposure/Employees of Other  
Agencies

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 2014  
SUPERCEDES DATE: July 2011

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## POLICY

Occasionally employees of other agencies (i.e., health care workers, law enforcement officers, EMT personnel) are exposed to blood or other potentially infectious materials in the performance of their duties while rendering services to offenders. It shall be the policy of the DOP to test the offender for HIV and hepatitis B infection as mandated in the communicable disease rules (15A NCAC 19A .0202-.0203), when a person from another agency is performing the official duties of their employer and experiences a needle stick, non-sexual or non-intact skin or mucous membrane exposure to the blood or body fluids of an offender confined in the Prisons. The exposed person's attending physician may give written documentation that an exposure has occurred and request the offender be tested for HIV and hepatitis B/C. When testing is complete the results will be reported to the attending physician of the exposed person.

## PROCEDURE

### **I. Exposure to BBP**

- A. An exposed person's physician must give written documentation that an exposure has occurred and request the offender be tested for hepatitis B/C and HIV infection.
- B. All requests for such testing should be directed to the Medical Director. It shall be the responsibility of the Medical Director or his/her designees to verify that the request is consistent with the communicable disease guidelines. Testing will not be performed until the Medical Director has authorized the request.
- C. After the validity of the request has been determined, the Infection Control Coordinator will send the request to the Facility Health Authority at the facility where the offender is assigned. The facility medical staff will discuss the incident with the offender and shall test the offender as directed by the Medical Director.
- D. The facility medical staff shall send a copy of the test results to the Infection Control Coordinator as soon as final results are available.
- E. The medical staff will inform the offender of the test results and provide counseling as appropriate.
- F. The Medical Director or his/her designee will furnish written notification of the results to the exposed person's physician.
- G. Complete and thorough documentation of all interactions, discussions, counseling, and the offender's reaction to the testing shall be documented in the Outpatient Health Record.

### **II. Offender Refusals**

- A. Offenders may not refuse testing for hepatitis B/C or HIV antibodies when there is valid documentation that a needle stick or non-sexual, non-intact skin or mucous membrane exposure to blood or body fluids has occurred. In such cases, testing will be performed as follows:
  1. The facility medical staff shall counsel the offender, explain the reason for the test, and make an effort to obtain the offender's consent for testing. Patient's consent shall be sought in all cases.
  2. If the offender still refuses:
    - a. The DOP Medical Director shall be notified.

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- b. The facility medical staff shall enlist the assistance of the facility custody staff.
- c. The offender shall be given a direct order to submit to the ordered test.
- d. Staff shall explain to the offender that force will be used to accomplish testing.
- e. A medical order shall be obtained from the DOP Medical Director prior to performing force testing on any offender.

## PURPOSE

To provide guidance on how a non-NCDPS employee manages a blood borne pathogen exposure while working with an offender.

### B. Use of Force to obtain lab specimen:

1. Upon the offender's continued refusal and with a physician's order
  - a. custody staff shall restrain and hold the offender
  - b. Appropriately trained medical staff will collect the required specimens.
  - c. Only the degree of force reasonable to accomplish testing is to be applied.

### C. Documentation related to specimen collection

1. Documentation completed in medical record includes:
  - a. Counseling related to need for blood specimen
  - b. Refusal to consent for testing
  - c. Requirement for use of force
  - d. Any other intention or communication with offender related to mandatory testing

### D. Facility nurse management shall:

1. Complete the medical event report
2. Forward medical event report to risk management.



6/5/2014

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Paula Y. Smith, MD, Chief of Health Services

Date

SOR: Infection Control Coordinator