

Core brief

Daily update

(6 March 2024, 1.30pm)

Topics in this Core Brief:

- Management of occupational exposure to blood or body fluids
- HR Support and Advice Unit
- NHS Scotland Event 2024 - call for posters now open

Remember, for all your latest news stories, visit our new Staffnet Hub:
[GGC-Staffnet Hub - Home \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

Management of occupational exposure to blood or body fluids

Occupational exposure to blood or body fluids: How can you be exposed to blood or body fluids?

Exposure to blood or high risk body fluids can occur as a result of one of the following types of incident:

- Percutaneous injury e.g. from needles, medical instruments, teeth or bone fragments or bites which break the skin
- Exposure of broken skin (abrasions, cuts, eczema etc.)
- Splashes of blood or body fluids into mucous membranes including the mouth or eyes

Contamination on intact skin is **not** a risk of exposure.

What are High Risk Body Fluids?

In addition to blood, high risk body fluids are pleural fluid, blood stained low risk fluid, saliva associated with dentistry, semen, vaginal secretions, breast milk, CSF synovial fluid, pericardial fluid, unfixed tissues or organs.

These types of exposure present a risk of blood borne virus (BBV) transmission e.g. HIV, hepatitis B and C. However, the likelihood of transmission is influenced by a number of factors:

- The virus e.g. Hepatitis B is 50-100 times more infectious than HIV

- The amount of exposure and the amount of virus present in the fluid an individual is exposed to e.g. someone who is regularly taking HIV medication, is unlikely to pose a risk of transmission due to reduced viral load
- The immune status of the exposed person e.g. If you have received vaccination for hepatitis B.

What should you do following exposure?

- Immediate first aid
- Squeeze the affected area to encourage bleeding and wash with warm water and soap
- Do not suck the affected area and do not scrub or use bleach
- Splashes to eye - Rinse out with saline, then remove contact lenses if worn and then rinse eye again. Clean contact lenses with contact lenses cleaner
- Splash into mouth - rinse mouth out with saline and spit out, do not swallow the saline
- Report the injury to your Line Manager/ Supervisor.

Nurse in charge of source patient

The nurse in charge of source patient (the patient whose body fluid the injured person has been exposed to) is responsible for the initial assessment and management of the source patient (if known) however this assessment can be delegated to a doctor or other clinician as appropriate.

Contact Occupational Health

Contact the Occupational Health needlestick line on 0141 201 0595 between 8.00am – 5.30pm Monday to Friday, to report the injury, to obtain further advice and to arrange any necessary follow up.

Out with these hours you must attend your local Emergency Department (ED) for the initial assessment. Where you attend ED you must also report your injury to Occupational Health on the next working day to arrange for follow up.

HR Support and Advice Unit

The HR Support and Advice Unit has been taking steps to improve their systems, technology and services provided to the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde workforce and key stakeholders.

This work has included the introduction of the HR Self Service Portal and also upgrading to a new telephony system.

More recently, the HR Support and Advice Unit has been working on consistency, branding and promotion. They have recently updated [HR Support & Advice Unit](#) page on HR Connect and created a [HRSAU Service Directory](#), which includes a Manager Support Pack, to provide further information on their service and how to get the most of the support and systems offered.

NHS Scotland Event 2024 - call for posters now open



This year's NHS Scotland event will take place on Monday 10 June at the SEC in Glasgow.

The theme for this year's event is ***Planning for the Future: Delivering Health and Care Services through Innovation and Collaboration.***

We're delighted to have the poster exhibition back for 2024. Poster abstract submissions are welcome from NHS Scotland employees, our voluntary and partner organisations, and other public or private sector organisations on any aspect of work they are undertaking in, with or on behalf of NHS Scotland.

We are mindful of the ongoing pressures and challenges on our health and social care colleagues, but we hope that this year's event and poster exhibition will provide a chance to come together to share the incredible stories and showcase the extraordinary work of NHS Scotland staff and partners.

There are eight poster categories this year with the introduction of a new Sustainable Care category.

Please note that the closing date for submitting abstracts is Thursday 21 March – however, we ask that you submit your poster abstract to your poster co-ordinator, Margaret.brodie@ggc.scot.nhs.uk by **Thursday 14 March** so any amendments can be made to the content in time for the deadline.

For your poster abstract form please go to: <https://nhsscotlandevents.com/nhs-scotland-event-2024/posters/poster-abstract-forms>.

For further information and guidance on this year's poster process, visit the NHS Scotland Event [website](#) or [Staffnet](#).

Staff are reminded to make sure their [personal contact details are up to date on eESS](#).

It is important to share Core Brief with colleagues who do not have access to a computer.

A full archive of printable PDFs are available on [website](#)