SOP 7 Management of occupational blood and body fluid exposures

Occupational blood and body fluids exposure may occur through percutaneous and / or mucocutaneous inoculation and human bites. Percutaneous exposure (covered in SOP 6) is defined as a puncture or laceration of the skin caused by a needle or sharp object contaminated with blood or body fluids. Mucocutaneous exposure is defined as aspiration, ingestion or splashing of blood or body fluids to the nose, lips, mouth, eyes and onto non-intact skin (and splashing to extensive areas of skin). Human bite is defined as a bite which causes bleeding or a break in the skin.

7.1 Procedure for mucocutaneous exposure

7.1.1 Procedure following splashes to mouth

- Rinse mouth thoroughly with water.
- Do not swallow water.
- Report to line manager and the Emergency Department if necessary.

7.1.2 Procedure following splash to eye

- Firstly rinse the eyes with a copious amount of cold water.
- In the event of a splash to eyes with contact lens in place; rinse eye with lens in place, then remove lens and rinse again. Lenses allow the chemical to stay in contact with the eye.
- Report to line manager and the Emergency Department if necessary.

7.1.3 Procedure following exposure to non-intact skin

- Wash skin with water.
- Cover with a sterile waterproof dressing if required.
- Report to line manager and the Emergency Department if necessary.

7.1.4 Procedure following human bite / scrapes

- Wash with water.
- Cover with a sterile waterproof dressing if required.
- Report to line manager and the Emergency Department if necessary.

Any attendance at the Emergency Department must be reported to Occupational Health at the earliest opportunity. The local protocol must be available in all clinics and should include appropriate local contact details.

EMI Toolkit Appendix 4 can be used for display http://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/EMIToolkit