STANFORD UNIVERSITY

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH CENTER
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY
ESF – 480 Oak Road
Stanford, CA 94305-8007
650.725.5308; fax: 650.725.9218
www.SUOHC.stanford.edu

Occupational Exposure to Hepatitis B Virus (HBV)

HEPATITIS B: Hepatitis B is a viral infection of the liver caused by Hepatitis B Virus (HBV). While most people who become acutely infected with HBV fully recover, between 5% and 10% will develop chronic infection. Those with chronic HBV infection can transmit the virus to others (through blood or sexual contact) and are at risk for development of cirrhosis or liver cancer.
For further information: http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/B/bFAQ.htm#bFAQ15

OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE RISK: In the university's research laboratory and clinical care settings, healthcare workers and first responders with direct patient contact, and laboratory workers and researchers who handle human blood or other potentially infectious material (OPIM) are at increased risk of acquiring hepatitis B virus through accidental exposure from the following:

- Needlestick injury from a needle contaminated with HBV
- Eye or mucosal splash from blood or OPIM contaminated with HBV
- Contact of non-intact skin with contaminated blood or OPIM

An unvaccinated individual who sustains an accidental blood or OPIM exposure from an infected source has up to a 40% risk of becoming infected with HBV.

VACCINATION: A safe and effective vaccine can prevent development of hepatitis B infection. Hepatitis B vaccine has been available since 1982, and routine vaccination of all U.S. children began in 1991. Full immunization requires completion of a series of three vaccines given over a six-month period. The completed vaccine series provides greater than 90% protection to infants, children, and adults. A blood test performed 4-8 weeks following completion of the vaccine series can verify adequate immunity. Protection from HBV following successful vaccination is believed to be life-long.
To review vaccine information: http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/B/bFAQ.htm#bFAQ15

VACCINATION RECCOMEDATIONS: While Stanford University strongly encourages at-risk personnel to be vaccinated, accepting vaccination is not a condition of employment at Stanford University. This vaccine is available at no cost to employees and research personnel who have an occupational exposure risk to HBV. Post-vaccination serological testing to ensure that protective antibodies to hepatitis B have developed is also provided at no cost 4-8 weeks following completion of the vaccine series.
Hepatitis B vaccination is recommended to all at-risk personnel unless:

- Documentation of prior vaccination (with receipt of three doses of Hepatitis B vaccine) can be provided
- Documentation of immunity due to previous hepatitis B infection can be provided
- Documentation of a medical contraindication to vaccination is provided

MEDICAL RECORD: Stanford University Occupational Health Center (SUOHC) provides oversight of the HBV vaccination program for personnel at Stanford University who have an occupational risk for exposure to HBV. SUOHC will maintain a confidential medical record for all participants in the BBP Training Program, where each individual's vaccination record and signed "Hepatitis B Vaccine Declaration Form" will be filed.