

The Cincinnati Insurance Company

Targeted Insurance Protection

LOSS CONTROL FOR DENTISTS AND STAFF

Safety Measures for Bloodborne Pathogens



The potential for contact with blood and bodily excretions exists whenever you provide dental and medical care. To control this risk, create a bloodborne pathogens program. Occupational Safety and Health Administration standard 29 CFR 1910.1030, Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens, requires the development and implementation of a plan to address your bloodborne pathogen exposures by job classification and job tasks or procedures and recommends the use of universal precautions.

Exposures

The primary occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens is accidental needle sticks, which put your staff at risk of:

- HIV
- hepatitis B virus
- hepatitis C virus
- other potentially infectious agents

You can directly impact the level of safety and reduce incidents in your office. Establish safe-work procedures and insist each person in your office follow them. Insist on strict adherence to safety protocols and the use of approved personal protective equipment.

Controls

Follow these general recommendations for controlling bloodborne pathogens exposures typically associated with dental operations:

- Establish a written program to control worker exposure to bloodborne pathogens. It should include safe-handling procedures, worker training, inspections, incident reporting, hepatitis B vaccinations and PPE.
- Implement universal precautions recommended by visiting www.osha.gov.
- Train employees who have potential occupational exposures to bloodborne pathogens according to the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard – at no cost to them and during working hours.
- Implement a needle-stick prevention strategy, including engineering controls by using safer needle-bearing products.
- Establish and maintain a sharps injury log to record percutaneous injuries from contaminated sharps. Be sure the sharps injury log protects the confidentiality of the injured employee.
- Implement organizational controls to eliminate sharps when possible, provide training in the use of sharps disposal containers and monitor needle-stick injuries to assess their frequency and circumstances.

For information, coverage availability in your state, quotes or policy service, please contact your local independent agent recommending coverage.



- Implement work-practice controls to reduce the risk of blood exposure by changing the manner in which a task is performed. OSHA recommends that you ask employees to dispose, into a sharps container, the entire blood tube holder unit with needle attached, after activation of the safety feature. OSHA also stipulates that contaminated needles and other contaminated sharps should not be bent, recapped or removed, unless there is no feasible alternative or unless that action is required by a specific medical or dental procedure. Also consider asking your staff to remove burs before placing the hand piece in the dental unit and to restrict the use of fingers during suturing and when administering anesthesia.
- Use puncture-resistant sharps containers with leak-proof sides and bottoms and labels or red color-coding to indicate hazardous contents. Containers for disposable sharps should have a lid and be maintained upright to keep liquids and the sharps inside.
- Use engineering controls that isolate or remove the bloodborne pathogens hazard from the workplace.
- Provide personal protective equipment. Specialized clothing or equipment worn to protect against hazards can include gloves, masks, protective eyewear with side shields and gowns to prevent skin and mucous membrane exposures.

Thank you for trusting your agent and Cincinnati to protect your business.



Our loss control service is advisory only. We assume no responsibility for management or control of customer loss control activities or for implementation of recommended corrective measures. These materials were gathered from trade services and public information. We have not tried to identify all exposures. We do not warrant that this information is consistent with Cincinnati underwriting guidelines or with any federal, state or local law, regulation or ordinance.

"The Cincinnati Insurance Companies" and "Cincinnati" refer to member companies of the insurer group providing property and casualty coverages through ☐ The Cincinnati Insurance Company or one of its wholly owned subsidiaries – ☐ The Cincinnati Indemnity Company, ☐ The Cincinnati Casualty Company or ☐ The Cincinnati Specialty Underwriters Insurance Company – and life and disability income insurance and annuities through ☐ The Cincinnati Life Insurance Company. Each insurer has sole financial responsibility for its own products. Not all subsidiaries operate in all states. 6200 S. Gilmore Road, Fairfield, OH 45014-5141. Copyright © 2016 The Cincinnati Insurance Company. All rights reserved. Do not reproduce or post online, in whole or in part, without written permission.