RA Training
Bloodborne Pathogens and Other Body Fluid Hazards
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Training Objectives

- To recognize potential health hazards associated with bloodborne and other body fluid (pus, vomit, urine, feces...) pathogens
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- To know what steps to take to minimize health risks associated with bloodborne and other body fluid pathogens
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- To know what steps to take to minimize health risks associated with bloodborne and other body fluid pathogens
- To know who to involve to resolve problems with potential bloodborne and other body fluid pathogens
What are pathogens?

- Agents, such as microorganisms, that have the potential to cause disease and infect others.
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Bloodborne pathogens

- Agents, such as microorganisms, found in the blood, that cause disease and have the potential to infect others
Bloodborne pathogens

- Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)
- Hepatitis B virus
- Hepatitis C virus and other hepatitis viruses
Body Fluid Pathogens

- Agents, such as microorganisms, found in semen, vaginal secretions, urine, pus, that cause disease and have the potential to infect others
Body Fluid Pathogens

MRSA – methicillin resistant staph. aureus bacteria

Chlamydia

Gonorrhea

Hepatitis B virus

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

Hepatitis B virus
How do bloodborne and body fluid pathogens get into the body?
Through exposed mucous membranes, i.e. splashing of blood or other fluids, or touching these membranes with contaminated hands/objects
Through breaks in the skin
Through injury with contaminated sharp objects
How do bloodborne and body fluid pathogens get into the body?

- Through sexual exposure
What do you do if you encounter blood or body fluids?
If you encounter blood or body fluids...

- And the situation involves a significant injury:
  - first call Campus Police (5-5310), or
  - if an emergency, call 911

- Call Facilities to clean up contaminated areas, i.e. blood loss from an injury, vomit or urine found in an elevator. They have the necessary equipment. Do not clean it up yourself. That is not your job.
Large amounts of contaminated material require:

- Proper disposal: not in regular trash!
- Must be in red biohazard bags
- Contaminated sharp objects like syringes, knives, require a puncture – proof container.
How do you protect yourself against the risk of illness from bloodborne and other body fluid pathogens?
Don’t touch risky things!

- Whatever situation you might find yourself in, avoid direct contact with another person’s blood or body fluids.
  - Do not clean up areas contaminated with blood or other body fluids—call Facilities.
  - In general, do not provide first aid. That is not the job of RAs.
  - If a situation requires some action on your part, i.e. a severely injured student is bleeding heavily, and immediate pressure needs to be applied, take necessary precautions.
Protect yourself:

- Use gloves
- If possible, use glasses or an eye shield

(Think of condoms as a different type of glove)
Remember it’s not your job to clean up and contaminate yourself. It IS your job to know who to call for help, and then call.
1. Name a body fluid that can transmit dangerous infections?

2. Name a bloodborne or other body fluid pathogen?

3. Name one way an infectious pathogen gets into the body?

4. If you come across a situation in which body fluids are present, what should you do?

5. If you must help out in a body fluid situation, name one way to protect yourself?
Thank you