



衛生防護中心
Centre for Health Protection

Scientific Committee on Infection Control

**Recommendation on prevention of healthcare-associated
transmission of hepatitis C virus during blood sampling**

**Scientific Committee on Infection Control, and
Infection Control Branch, Centre for Health Protection,
Department of Health**



April 2018

衛生防護中心乃衛生署
轄下執行疾病預防
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Healthcare-associated hepatitis C virus transmission has been most often reported to be due to breakdown of infection control practices e.g. poor hand hygiene compliance including the use of contaminated gloves, suboptimal separation of clean and dirty areas, environmental and healthcare equipment contamination, and improper work practices such as syringe reuse contaminating multi-dose vials of intravenous fluid.

2. Standard precautions remain the most important element to prevent healthcare-associated transmission of hepatitis C virus. Healthcare workers should pay particular attention to the following components:

- (a) Good hand hygiene compliance
- (b) Proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE), in particular, DO NOT use the same pair of gloves for blood sampling for more than one patient
- (c) Safe injection practices
- (d) Proper disinfection of reusable items
- (e) Maintenance of environmental hygiene
- (f) Proper waste disposal

3. There has been no reported case of healthcare-associated hepatitis C virus transmission in the scientific literature related to the use of blood collection tube holders, despite wide-scale use of these devices. Having reviewed the available information, the SCIC considers that no definitive link has been established on the role of blood collection tube holder in healthcare-associated transmission of hepatitis C virus.

4. If blood collection tube holders are reused, healthcare facilities should comply with recommendations of manufacturer's disinfection method, **OR**

Adopt disinfection guidance as below:

- (a) Visual inspection of blood collection tube holders before and after each patient use

- (i) If visibly contaminated with blood, discard the reusable blood collection tube holder immediately
- (ii) If not visibly contaminated with blood, disinfect after each patient use in accordance with healthcare facility's disinfection policy *

* Examples of disinfection methods include use of 2-in-1 disinfectant wipes, alcohol wipes, or other disinfectants with equivalent or higher efficacy. Wipes with quaternary ammonium compounds as major active ingredient are not appropriate for this purpose.

5. Do not exceed the maximum number of reuse for reusable blood collection tube holders as advised by manufacturers.

6. If single-use blood collection tube holders are used, devices with built-in safety feature are preferred. Examples of safety features include attached needle cover and retractable needle.

7. Training should be provided regularly to ensure all staff members who perform blood sampling procedures are equipped with essential infection control knowledge and adhere to standard precautions.

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