



**衛生防護中心**  
Centre for Health Protection

**Scientific Committee on Infection Control**

**Recommendations on Prevention of Healthcare-associated  
Transmission of Bloodborne Viruses during Blood Sampling**

Healthcare-associated transmission of bloodborne viruses (BBV) e.g. hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) 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. Healthcare-associated transmission is also possible through sharps injury and mucosal exposure.

2. Standard precautions (SP) remain the most important element to prevent healthcare-associated transmission of BBV. Healthcare workers (HCW) should observe the following relevant components of SP:

- (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. 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 by trained personnel.

4. If blood collection tube holders are to be reused, healthcare facilities should 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, always 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.

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

6. To prevent occupational sharps (e.g. needlestick) or mucosal injury in healthcare settings, comply with safe injection practices (e.g. no recapping of used needles under any circumstances and no removal of used needle as practicable). In the event of such exposure, follow the protocol of management as recommended by the Scientific Committee on AIDS and STI ([https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/recommendations\\_on\\_postexposure\\_management\\_and\\_prophylaxis\\_of\\_needlestick\\_injury\\_or\\_mucosal\\_contact\\_to\\_hbv\\_hcv\\_and\\_hiv\\_en\\_r.pdf](https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/recommendations_on_postexposure_management_and_prophylaxis_of_needlestick_injury_or_mucosal_contact_to_hbv_hcv_and_hiv_en_r.pdf))

7. For hepatitis B, vaccination is the most effective means of prevention. HCW should receive vaccinations according to recommendations made by the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases ([https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/summary\\_statement\\_on\\_vaccination\\_practice\\_for\\_health\\_care\\_workers\\_in\\_hong\\_kong\\_september\\_2017.pdf](https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/summary_statement_on_vaccination_practice_for_health_care_workers_in_hong_kong_september_2017.pdf))

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