

ECP Appendix A: Definitions

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Blood means human or primate blood, human or primate blood components, products made from human or primate blood or the blood of experimental animals infected with human or primate material.

Bloodborne Pathogens means pathogenic microorganisms that may be present in human blood and can cause disease in humans. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Clinical Laboratory means a workplace where diagnostic or other screening procedures are performed on blood or other potentially infectious materials.

Contaminated means the presence, or the reasonably anticipated presence, of blood or other potentially infectious materials on an item or surface, including laundry.

Contaminated Laundry means laundry that has been soiled with blood or other potentially infectious materials or that may contain sharps.

Contaminated Sharps means any contaminated object that can penetrate the skin including, but not limited to, needles, scalpels, broken glass, broken capillary tubes, and exposed ends of dental wires.

Decontamination means the use of physical or chemical means to remove, inactivate, or destroy bloodborne pathogens on a surface or item to the point where they are no longer capable of transmitting infectious particles and the surface or item is rendered safe for handling, use, or disposal.

Engineering Controls means controls (e.g., sharps disposal containers,

self-sheathing needles, and safer medical devices such as sharps with engineered sharps injury protections and needleless systems) that isolate or remove the bloodborne pathogens hazard from the workplace.

Exposure Incident means a specific eye, mouth, other mucous membrane, non-intact skin, or parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that results from the performance of a person's duties.

Handwashing Facilities means a facility providing adequate supply of running potable water, soap, and single-use towels or air-drying machines.

HBV stands for Hepatitis B Virus.

HCV stands for Hepatitis C Virus.

HIV stands for human immunodeficiency virus.

Occupational Exposure means reasonably anticipated skin, eye, mucous membrane, or parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that may result from the performance of an employee's duties.

Other Potentially Infectious Materials (OPIM) means

1. The following human body fluids: semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, pericardial fluid, peritoneal fluid, amniotic fluid, saliva in dental procedures, any body fluid visibly contaminated with blood, and all body fluids in situations in which it is difficult or impossible to differentiate between body fluids;
2. Any unfixed tissue or organ (other than intact skin) from a human (living or dead); and
3. Any cell or tissue cultures, organ cultures, culture medium and

other solutions contaminated with pathogens; and blood, tissues, and organs from experimental animals infected with human pathogens including, but not limited, to HIV, HBV, or HCV.

Parenteral means piercing mucous membranes or the skin barrier through such events as needlesticks, bites, cuts, and abrasions.

Percutaneous refers to an exposure by injection or absorption through the skin.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is specialized clothing or equipment worn for protection against a hazard. General work clothes (e.g., uniforms, pants, shirts or blouses) not intended to function as protection against a hazard are not considered to be personal protective equipment.

Regulated Medical Waste (Biowaste) means liquid or semi-liquid blood or other potentially infectious materials; contaminated items that would release blood or other potentially infectious materials in a liquid or semi-liquid state if compressed; items that are caked with dried blood or other potentially infectious materials and are capable of releasing these materials during handling; contaminated sharps; and pathological and microbiological wastes containing blood or other potentially infectious materials.

Research Laboratory means a laboratory in which blood, other potentially infectious materials, or human pathogens are handled for research purposes.

Sharps with engineered sharps injury protection means a non-needle sharp or a needle device used for cutting or piercing tissue, withdrawing body fluids, or administering medications or other fluids, with a built-in safety feature or mechanism that effectively reduces the risk of an exposure incident.

Source Individual means any individual, living or dead, whose blood or

other potentially infectious materials may be a source of occupational exposure. Examples include, but are not limited to, hospital and clinic patients; clients in institutions for the developmentally disabled; trauma victims; clients of drug and alcohol treatment facilities; residents of hospices and nursing homes; arrestees who attack police officers; human remains; and individuals who donate or sell blood, blood components, tissues or organs.

Sterilize means the use of a physical or chemical procedure to destroy all microbial life including highly resistant bacterial endospores.

Universal Precautions is the minimum acceptable work practice for protection against transmission of bloodborne pathogens in the workplace. It is the practice of treating all unfixed human and primate tissue, blood, and other potentially infectious materials (see definition above) as if they were infectious for bloodborne pathogens and avoiding all direct contact with them.