



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Affiliated Schools  
**FROM:** Sharp HealthCare  
**DATE:** July 23, 2009  
**RE:** Blood & Body Fluid Exposure

As you are likely aware, the recommendation for treatment after a blood and body fluid exposure (BBFE) is to be seen for evaluation within two (2) hours of the exposure. It is important that you prepare your students in advance with instructions on how and where they are supposed to access this evaluation.

Specifically, your students should know if they should seek care at the Sharp entity where they are at the time. If so, they should know the health care provider and insurance or other payer information you wish for them to list on the Sharp admissions forms they will be asked to sign. Charges will be forwarded to the responsible party indicated in the admission documents, e.g. a private insurance or injured party's workers' compensation carrier.

If you elect to have your students seen at the Sharp facility where the exposure occurs, you should understand the following elements of our practices with respect to BBFE events, which track with Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations and the law:

- The exposed individual will be asked to sign a "Consent for HIV Test" form whenever baseline testing is recommended;
- By law, we will not perform the test on someone who declines to complete the form;
- We will not share HIV test results with anyone other than the exposed person and his or her health care provider(s) unless specifically authorized in writing by the exposed person;
- Exposed individuals may authorize the release of HIV test results, as well as any other records we may have about care delivered to them, using Sharp's "Authorization for Use or Disclosure of Medical Information" or other approved Sharp medical record release form(s).

In the event that information about a source patient becomes necessary for the follow-up care of any student experiencing a BBFE event, we will share that information with the student's health care provider, who will assume responsibility for forming treatment recommendations and notifying the student.

We hope that the information shared in this memo is helpful. We recommend that you discuss the process with your students in advance in order to help reduce the time between exposure and presenting for care. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call Barbara DeFulvio, Education Liaison, 858-499-5244.