



NIHB PROJECT FIRSTLINE TRIBAL INFECTION CONTROL

HEPATITIS C is a curable liver infection caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV). Hepatitis C is spread through contact with blood from an infected person. The most common form of transmission today is by sharing needles or other equipment used to prepare and inject drugs. Hepatitis C can spread in healthcare settings when injection equipment, such as syringes, is shared between patients or when injectable medications or intravenous solutions are mishandled and become contaminated with blood. Healthcare personnel should understand and adhere to Standard Precautions to prevent the spread of this virus.

OCCUPATIONS AT RISK:

- Anyone providing first-response care to people who are sick or injured
- Nurses and other healthcare personnel
- Home healthcare workers
- Orderlies, housekeeping personnel, and laundry workers

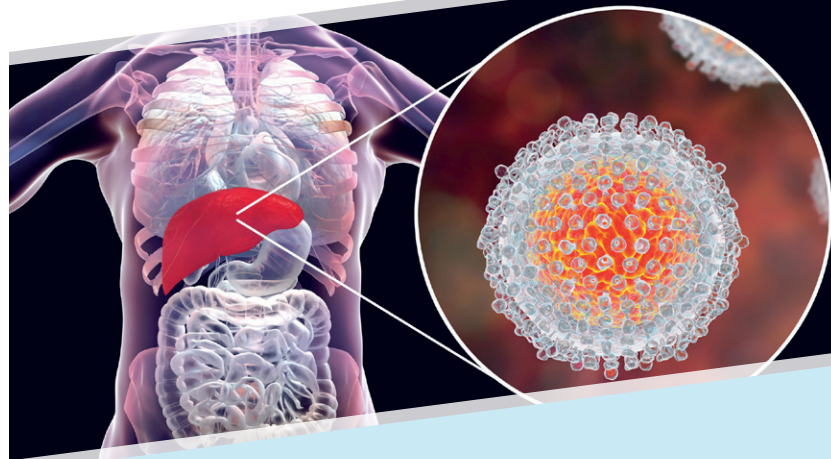
WHERE IS THE RISK?

Viruses like Hepatitis C can spread when contaminated blood is on a sharp item

Hepatitis C has been associated with inadequate infection prevention practices during inpatient care, outpatient care, and hemodialysis

TASKS INVOLVING THE BLOOD:

- Putting in or removing an IV
- Giving an injection
- Surgery and procedures
- Changing soiled laundry
- Needlestick and blood spill accidents



HOW TRIBAL HEALTHCARE WORKERS CAN TAKE ACTION TO REDUCE RISK:

- Proper hand hygiene
- Use of personal protective equipment (PPE) Such as gloves
- Safe injection practices
- Maintain a clean and sanitary workplace
- Textile management



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