

No risk of exposure to bloodborne viruses following a needlestick injury or other injury with blood or body fluids

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### **I was exposed to blood or body fluids from another person, what is the chance that I will develop an infection?**

A doctor has looked at your injury and taken a detailed history from you on how you got your injury. Based on this information, you are not at risk of getting a bloodborne virus such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C or HIV.

### **What do I have to do next?**

If you have a wound, for example, after a needlestick injury or a bite injury, follow the wound care advice that was given to you. Keep the wound clean and dry by keeping it covered with a plaster or bandage until it is healed.

If your wound was caused by a human bite, an antibiotic will be prescribed for you. Make sure you finish the full course of the antibiotic.

If you have any concerns about your wound after discharge, please attend your own GP for follow up. The emergency department will be sending a letter to your own doctor informing them about your injury and what treatment you received.

### **I was injured by a needle and I kept the needle – can it be tested for blood or infections?**

Testing of needles for blood or infections is of no benefit as it is not very reliable and it can be hard to test for bloodborne viruses. Therefore, it is not recommended.

The needle that you have needs to be carefully disposed of into a special bin so that it will not cause any more injuries. Ask a member of staff about safe disposal of the needle.

### **Am I allowed to be a blood donor?**

Based on your injury, there is no risk that you will get a bloodborne infection from this injury. Therefore, you can be a blood donor. However, the Irish Blood Transfusion Service (IBTS) donor guidelines require a deferral period before donating. For further information, contact IBTS.

### **Is there any other follow-up that I should know about?**

If you are at risk of getting an injury with blood or body fluids again, you may be advised to get a vaccine against hepatitis B.

If you received the 1<sup>st</sup> dose of hepatitis B vaccine in the emergency department or occupational health department, you will be given instructions about when you should get the next two doses of the vaccine. A hepatitis B vaccination card will be given to you as a reminder of when you should get the next dose of the vaccine.

**‘If you have any concerns about your wound after discharge, please attend your own GP for follow up.’**