

Hepatitis C Virus

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Many diseases, such as Hepatitis C, can be transmitted from blood-to-blood, or from blood-to-blood contact. Individuals may have such a disease and not know it, because of the long incubation period. They may have contracted an infectious disease through blood transfusion.

Hepatitis C is a disease of the liver caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV). It is found in the blood of persons who have this disease. HCV is spread by contact with the blood of an infected person. You may be at risk for hepatitis C and should contact your medical care provider for a blood test if you:

- Were notified that you received blood from a donor who later tested positive for hepatitis C;
- Have ever injected illegal drugs, even if you experimented a few times many years ago;
- Received a blood transfusion or solid organ transplant before July, 1992;
- Were a recipient of clotting factor(s) made before 1987;
- Have ever been on long-term kidney dialysis;
- Have evidence of liver disease (e.g., persistently abnormal ALT levels).

HCV is spread primarily by direct contact with human blood. For example, you may have gotten infected with HCV if:

- You ever injected street drugs, as the needles and/or other drug "works" used to prepare or inject the drug(s) may have had someone else's blood that contained HCV on them.
- You received blood, blood products, or solid organs from a donor whose blood contained HCV.
- You were ever on long-term kidney dialysis as you may have unknowingly shared supplies/equipment that had someone else's blood on them.
- You were ever a healthcare worker and had frequent contact with blood on the job, especially accidental needle sticks.
- Your mother had hepatitis C at the time she gave birth to you. During the birth her blood may have gotten into your body.
- You ever had sex with a person infected with HCV.

- You lived with someone who was infected with HCV and shared items such as razors or toothbrushes that might have had his/her blood on them.

GENERAL SAFETY REVIEW

This is a time to review all safety concerns, not just today's topic. Keep your notes on this page before, during and after the safety meeting.

Do we have any other safety business? Discuss any past issues or problems. Report any progress of investigations and action taken.

Have there been any accidents, near misses or complaints? Discuss any accidents, near misses, and complaints that have happened since the last safety meeting. Also recognize the safety contributions made by members of the crew.

Please remember, we want to hear from you about any health and safety issues that come up. If we don't know about problems, we can't take action to fix them.

ENDING THE MEETING

Circulate Sign-Off Form.

Assign one or more crew member(s) to help with next safety meeting.

Refer action items for follow-up.

Do you have any Safety Recommendations?

Do you have any Job Specific Topics you would like us to discuss?

Comments
