

Inoculation Injury – For Non Trust Employees

You have unfortunately had an inoculation injury. Inoculation injuries include human bites, as well as injuries caused by discarded needles. Although it is very unlikely you will catch any serious disease from this injury, we will take a few measures to minimise this risk.

General

There are three main viral infections considered when an inoculation injury occurs: Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV. We will also check and update where required your tetanus protection. *A pregnancy test may be required in female patients of appropriate age.*

Hepatitis B (this is a virus that causes inflammation of the liver)

Sometimes, although on very rare occasions, Hepatitis B is transmitted through an inoculation injury. We may therefore do the following:

Immunisations are started against this virus. The first one is given today. Further injections are required to build up the body's immunity. If you have received an immunisation today **you should** arrange to have the further required doses with your GP in 4 weeks and 8 weeks time. *High risk patients* may be offered an additional injection of immunoglobulin to assist the immune system. Your doctor will discuss this with you if required.

Hepatitis C Virus (this is also a virus that causes inflammation of the liver)

This can occasionally be transmitted from infected patients to recipients of an inoculation injury. Currently there is no immunisation for this virus but you may be monitored for this virus with further blood tests with your GP.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) (this is the virus that, in the long term can lead to the development of AIDS)

This can rarely be transmitted from infected patients to recipients of an inoculation injury. There is no immunisation for this virus.

High risk patients may be offered medicines called 'post exposure prophylaxis'. Your doctor will discuss this with you if required.

What has and will happen now?

We will store the blood taken today and **you should** arrange to be re-checked with further blood tests for the viruses mentioned above at your GP's surgery in 6 weeks time.

If post-exposure prophylaxis is prescribed then follow up will be arranged in outpatients within the blood-borne virus clinic at Worcestershire Royal Hospital, or GUM clinic (these clinics specialise in these injuries and infections).

Some patients may be referred to occupational health instead.

If you have any further questions or wound problems (eg. redness, swelling, discharge, or increasing pain) please do not hesitate to contact us, or see your GP.

Please retain this card for future reference

Patient Experience

We know that being admitted to hospital can be a difficult and unsettling time for you and your loved ones. If you have any questions or concerns, please do speak with a member of staff on the ward or in the relevant department who will do their best to answer your questions and reassure you.

Feedback

Feedback is really important and useful to us – it can tell us where we are working well and where improvements can be made. There are lots of ways you can share your experience with us including completing our Friends and Family Test – cards are available and can be posted on all wards, departments and clinics at our hospitals. We value your comments and feedback and thank you for taking the time to share this with us.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

If you have any concerns or questions about your care, we advise you to talk with the nurse in charge or the department manager in the first instance as they are best placed to answer any questions or resolve concerns quickly. If the relevant member of staff is unable to help resolve your concern, you can contact the PALS Team. We offer informal help, advice or support about any aspect of hospital services & experiences.

Our PALS team will liaise with the various departments in our hospitals on your behalf, if you feel unable to do so, to resolve your problems and where appropriate refer to outside help.

If you are still unhappy you can contact the Complaints Department, who can investigate your concerns. You can make a complaint orally, electronically or in writing and we can advise and guide you through the complaints procedure.

How to contact PALS:

Telephone Patient Services: 0300 123 1732 or via email at: wah-tr.PALS@nhs.net

Opening times:

The PALS telephone lines are open Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 4.00pm. Please be aware that you may need to leave a voicemail message, but we aim to return your call within one working day. If you are unable to understand this leaflet, please communicate with a member of staff.

For additional medical advice, if your symptoms or condition worsens:

Contact your GP

NHS 111:

Get help with your symptoms, NHS111:
Information to help you manage your health:

Telephone 111

<https://111.nhs.uk/>
www.nhs.uk

In an emergency telephone 999

Emergency Department
(A&E)
Alexandra Hospital
Woodrow Drive
Redditch B98 7UB

Tel: 01527 512030

Minor Injury Unit
Kidderminster Hospital
Bewdley Road
Kidderminster DY11
6RJ

Tel: 01562 513039

Emergency Department
(A&E)
Worcestershire Royal
Hospital
Charles Hastings Way
Worcester WR5 1DD

Tel: 01905 760743