

Parish Dental Needle Stick Injury Protocol

1. **Immediate Action:**
 - **Wash and Disinfect:** Immediately wash the injury site with soap and water. Do not scrub. Apply an antiseptic after washing.
 - **Report the Incident:** Promptly report the incident to the designated safety officer or supervisor.
2. **Medical Evaluation:**
 - **Seek Medical Attention:** Visit a healthcare provider as soon as possible for evaluation and possible treatment.
 - **Documentation:** Record details of the incident, including the type of needle, the depth of penetration, and whether the needle was used on a patient.
3. **Risk Assessment:**
 - **Source Patient Testing:** If the needle was used on a patient, obtain consent and conduct blood tests on the patient for HIV, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C.
 - **Exposed Person Testing:** The person who experienced the needle stick should also undergo blood tests for these pathogens.
4. **Follow-up Care:**
 - **Prophylactic Treatment:** Based on the healthcare provider's recommendation, start any prophylactic treatment, such as post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV.
 - **Counseling:** Provide access to counseling services for emotional support.
5. **Prevention and Training:**
 - **Review and Improve Safety Practices:** Analyze the incident to understand how it could have been prevented and implement changes.
 - **Training:** Regularly train staff on the proper handling of needles and the protocol for needle stick injuries.
6. **Record Keeping:**
 - **Confidential Records:** Maintain confidential records of the incident, medical evaluations, follow-ups, and any changes implemented as a result.
7. **Communication:**
 - **Inform Relevant Parties:** Inform relevant parties, such as health and safety committees, without violating patient or staff confidentiality.
8. **Legal Compliance:**
 - **Adhere to Regulations:** Ensure the protocol complies with local health regulations and legal requirements.
9. **Review and Update Protocol Regularly:**
 - **Continuous Improvement:** Regularly review and update the protocol to incorporate new best practices and feedback from staff.





Important Considerations:

- **Confidentiality:** Maintain strict confidentiality throughout the process.
- **Consent:** Obtain necessary consent for any testing.
- **Timeliness:** Act promptly at each stage to reduce risks.
- **Support:** Provide psychological support to the affected individual.

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