

Occupational Health & Safety for Staff: Infection Control

Occupational Health and Safety is an important part of the day-to-day operations of a Practice. The Practice needs to have appropriate systems, policies and procedures, and provide staff training, particularly in regards to infection control issues. All orientation should be relevant to each Doctor or staff member's job description, both at induction and on an ongoing basis.

In relation to practice cleaning, specific areas such as the following need to be included:

- The use of standard and additional precautions including personal protective equipment
- Management of blood and body spills
- Cleaning methods, correct product use, and the location of material safety data sheets in the event of chemical exposure
- Awareness of the blood or body fluid exposure protocol
- Waste Management
 - handling and disposal of clinical waste
 - handling and disposal of general waste
 - handling and disposal of sharps
 - disposal of pharmaceutical waste
 - handling and disposal of liquid waste
 - contract for disposal for clinical waste
- Safe manual handling
- Protection against vaccine preventable diseases such as hepatitis B and tetanus

This fact sheet is provided as a guide only and does not encompass all of the Occupational Health & Safety issues relevant to general practice.

For further information, visit the NSW WorkCover website:

www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/OHS/WorkCoversRoleinOHS/OHSResponsibilities/default.htm

References:

Health and Safety in the Office: WorkCover Authority of NSW

RACGP *Infection Control Standards for Office Based Practices* (4th Edition)