TITLE

OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE TO BLOOD AND BODY FLUIDS

PURPOSE

- To prevent and manage the occupational transmission of blood-borne pathogens through contact with blood or body fluids.

POLICY STATEMENT

Alberta Health Services ("AHS") is committed to protecting Staff from infectious diseases stemming from the occupational exposure to blood and body fluids.

APPLICABILITY

Compliance with this policy is required by all AHS employees, members of the medical and midwifery staffs, students, volunteers, and other persons acting on behalf of AHS (including contracted services providers as necessary). This policy is subject to all applicable laws.

POLICY ELEMENTS

1. **Legislative Adherence**
   Staff will act in accordance with applicable legislation, including the Mandatory Testing and Disclosure Act and Regulations, related protocols, and governing professional bylaws and regulations.

2. **Prevention**
   Both Staff and management will consider blood and body fluids as an occupational hazard while completing hazard assessments under Part 2 of the Occupational Health and Safety Code. All reasonably practicable measures to eliminate and/or control this occupational hazard, including universal precautions, will be taken by both management and Staff.
3. Reporting Incidents
Incidents of Exposure of Staff to blood or body fluids shall be reported through the designated reporting system.

4. Investigation and Follow-Up
Workplace Health & Safety and Employee Wellness (WHS&EW) shall ensure the necessary investigation, follow-up, tracking and on-going surveillance of Staff exposed to blood and body fluids. Follow-up services include testing of the person presumed to be the source of the Exposure as permitted by consent or mandated by legislation or protocol.

5. Counselling
In accordance with established protocols, AHS will assist Staff with accessing counselling services.

DEFINITIONS
Body Fluids means any blood or bloody body fluid/tissue, vaginal secretions, seminal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluids, peritoneal fluid, pericardial fluid, amniotic fluid, non-bloody saliva; and tears, nasal secretions, sputum, sweat, vomitus, and urine and feces.

Staff means employees; independent contractors or contracted service providers; medical, dental, podiatry, and midwifery staff or other health professionals; students and volunteers; or other persons acting on behalf of AHS.

Exposure means parenteral contact (needle stick, laceration, or puncture) with mucosal membrane (eye, mouth or lining of nose) or contact with non-intact skin (chapped or abraded skin, skin with dermatitis or eczema).

REFERENCES
• Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Code – Part 2
• Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Code – Part 35 – Section 530
• Mandatory Testing and Disclosure Act (Alberta) M-3.5 and Regulations

REVISIONS
None.