



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 / staff member's job description, both at induction and on an ongoing basis.

In relation to practice cleaning, specific areas need to be given reference to and these include:

- 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 refer to GPA ASSIST *plus* Sheet 'Health & Safety in the Office' and 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