LIMITING EXPOSURE TO BLOOD-BORNE PATHOGENS IN LONG-TERM CARE

A Video Guide for Staff in Long-Term Care Facilities

Preventing the exposure and spread of blood-borne pathogens in our long-term facility is a challenge we must meet to protect our residents. As important, caution protects us as well. OSHA’s Blood-borne Pathogen Standards and Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act define a series of federal regulations to help protect residents in long-term care settings from acquiring blood-borne pathogens. A person living in a long-term care facility deserves the same protections from illness and infection as anyone in the community at large.

This program and the accompanying in-service training will explain what blood-borne pathogens are, how they spread, and why precautions for administering care are so important.
“Limiting Exposure to Blood-borne Pathogens in Long-Term Care” is a video-based learning program. It supports the needs and motivations of health care professionals and staff that provide direct resident care.

Conduct learning sessions for:
• All CNAs
• All RNs
• Staff across your facility including those supporting activities, social services, housekeeping and food service.

“Limiting Exposure to Blood-borne Pathogens in Long-Term Care” can positively influence care giving by helping staff and caregivers. The learning objectives will help viewers understand:
• The risks of exposure to blood-borne pathogens
• How you can help ensure safety for you and the residents under your care and
• Precautions for administering care when exposures occur and infections are present.
“Limiting Exposure to Blood-borne Pathogens in Long-Term Care” is a practical educational tool. It demonstrates important ways to help understand the risks of exposure to blood-borne pathogens and helps your work to ensure the safety of your residents and yourself. It also provides guidance to help caregivers manage situations when exposure to blood-borne pathogens and infections do occur.

Filled with practical information and useful instruction, this video training provides a unique and interactive learning experience. In addition to the valuable information contained in the video and the accompanying facilitator’s guide, the video in-service provides opportunities for facilitated discussion to help participants understand how they can help protect their residents and themselves from the dangers associated with blood-borne pathogens.
SAMPLE GROUP SESSION AGENDA

Use the following sample agenda to structure a session featuring “Limiting Exposure to Blood-borne Pathogens in Long-Term Care.”

Suggested length of session: 60 minutes. Group discussion is important to learning. If participants are slow to respond, consider briefly recapping the main ideas just covered or the key situations and behaviors with which you feel your group can most easily relate.

Length of videotaped program: approximately 25 minutes

Materials needed:
  • This facilitator’s guide
  • The “Limiting Exposure to Blood-borne Pathogens in Long-Term Care” DVD program
  • Optional paper and pencils for participant note-taking
  • Optional flipchart and markers for writing key ideas
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sequence</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Welcome the group to your session.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>INTRODUCE the “Limiting Exposure to Blood-borne Pathogens in Long-Term Care” topic and show the first module of video program — Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Engage viewers in a brief discussion about MODULE 1. DISCUSSION: Ask group to try and define/explain blood-borne pathogens. Ask group to discuss and recognize some situations where blood-borne pathogens might pose a risk to their residents and themselves in their long-term care facility. Consider responses of the group and focus this instruction to help correct any misunderstanding and to provide a true characterization of blood-borne pathogens, exposure, spread and mandated precautions. ASK: Have you ever found yourself in a similar situation to the CNA in the video? If so, how did you react? ASK: Have you ever heard of blood-borne pathogens? Have you been trained in how to prevent exposure and deal with exposures that do occur?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Show second module of video program – Blood-borne Pathogens and How They Spread</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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5 Engage viewers in a brief discussion about MODULE 2. Focus on the definition of blood-borne pathogens and general issues surrounding their prevalence and spread.

ASK: What does direct and indirect contact mean to you? What types of direct contact with blood-borne pathogens might you have throughout your regular day? What types of indirect contact?

ASK: Do you have any experience working with a resident with any of the blood-borne pathogens described in this section? If so, what specific pathogen? Do you understand the risks associated with that type of blood-borne pathogen?

ASK: Do you routinely work when you have an injury to your skin, like a needlestick or cut? If so, what do you do to prevent that area from exposure?

6 Show third module of video program – Preventing Exposure to Blood-borne Pathogens

7 Engage viewers in a brief discussion about MODULE 3.
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ASK: Has your facility trained you in the use of Standard or Universal Precautions? Are you familiar with your facility’s Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)?

8 Ask a volunteer to join you at the front of the room and have them put on a standard set of PPE available in the facility.

Ask the other viewers to lead the volunteer through the proper steps for donning the PPE. Assist them if they are unsure how to apply each piece of equipment in the correct order specified in the video.

ASK: How often do you have to wear equipment like this?

ASK: How do you dispose of this equipment when you are finished?

9 Ask the other viewers to lead the volunteer through the proper steps for removing the PPE. Assist them if they are unsure how to remove each piece of equipment in the correct order specified in the video.

ASK: Do you ever encounter any Sharps, such as needles, syringes, razors or scissors throughout the day? Have you been trained in proper Sharps precautions?
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ASK: How often do you wash your hands throughout the day? What is the proper procedure for when to wash and how to wash your hands?

10 Show fourth module of video program – If an Exposure Does Occur

11 Engage viewers in a brief discussion about MODULE 4.

DISCUSS what to do when a resident, family member or employee is exposed to a blood-borne pathogen. Invite viewers to imagine situations where they may be called upon to work through an exposure protocol. What would be their role and what precautions might they take to arrest the spread of infection?

ASK: Has an exposure to a blood-borne pathogen ever occurred in your facility? What happened? How was the situation resolved?

ASK: Image that you are in a situation like the one depicted in the video. How would you react?

ASK: Do you know the proper procedure for washing needlesticks and cuts? Flushing the nose, mouth and eyes?

ASK: What is the process for reporting exposure incidents that do occur?

12 Show fifth module of video program – Conclusion
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13

Engage viewers in a brief discussion about MODULE 5.

DISCUSS the viewers’ perceptions of the dangers posed by blood-borne pathogens at their facility. What can they do to identify potential risk factors, prevent exposure and assist when exposure does occur?

ASK: Are you aware of the incidence and infection rates of the common blood-borne pathogens among your residents? How does that change the way you interact with those residents compared to others?

Ask: What should you do if you ever feel like you are exposed to a blood-borne pathogen? What should you do if you are merely unsure?

ASK: Are you aware of any other resources you can use to learn more about blood-borne pathogens and what you can do to protect yourself and your residents?

Thank group members for their participation and conclude the session.
EXERCISES AFTER VIDEO

1. What have you learned during this session that you had not known beforehand?

2. With what you have learned, do you look at the dangers of blood-borne pathogens differently than you had before this session?

3. How would you apply what you’ve learned on-the-job.

4. Considering what this in-service covered, how would you rate your facility protocol for identifying risks and preventing the spread of blood-borne pathogens? How would your rate your facility protocol for handling outbreaks that do occur? What would you recommend to enhance those protocols?
Questions?

If you have questions about how to implement the “Limiting Exposure to Blood-borne Pathogens in Long-Term Care” program, or if you would like information about other programs available from Video Pro Productions, call or write:

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Phone: 513-667-3183

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