

## **Guidelines for Needle stick injuries and other minor injuries involving human tissue**

### **Summary:**

If you are a student working with human tissues or bodily fluids and have a needle stick injury or minor laceration, you can now see the doctors in **UoA Student Health in 505 Level 3** for assessment and blood tests. Please note you may be referred to your own GP if not registered.

If you are a staff member you will need to go to your own GP or nearest medical centre for assessment and blood tests.

Any cost incurred will be covered by the project grant; if resource is an issue please discuss with the Institute Operations Manager.

Please also contact the Technical Services Manager (for incidents in the labs) or Lead Nurse (for incidents in the CRU) and complete the [accident and incident form](#) in accordance with UoA policy.

It is a requirement that all staff and students working with human tissues or bodily fluids have Hepatitis B immunity. Proof of immunity to be required prior to working with human samples in the laboratory or CRU.

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### **UoA/Liggins Detailed Process for Needlestick Injuries**

1. When assisting someone with a needlestick injury, put on protective gloves before administering appropriate first aid for any bleeding or embedded object.
2. Wash the wound or skin sites thoroughly with soap and water or use a waterless cleanser or antiseptic if water is unavailable. Apply a waterproof dressing as necessary, and apply pressure through the dressing if bleeding is still occurring.  
Do not squeeze or rub the injury site.
3. Identify the source individual or the source of the sharp if possible and assess the risk status of the source individual.
  - If the sharp is unused/sterile – usual wound management process as above
  - If the sharp is used – follow wound management and then proceed as follows:
4. If blood or blood products make contact with eyes, rinse the eyes gently but thoroughly (remove contact lenses), for at least 30 seconds, with water or normal saline.
5. If blood or body fluids are sprayed into the mouth, spit out and then rinse the mouth with water several times.
6. If any clothing is contaminated, remove and shower if necessary.
7. When an injury has been sustained with a used sharp or there has been contamination with bodily fluids, staff must go to their own GP and students must see the doctors in the UoA Student Health, 505, level 3 (or your own GP) to discuss testing for communicable disease.
8. If a source individual is identified, they should be strongly encouraged to undergo testing which will need to be via their GP (with reimbursement for any costs incurred assured).
9. Contact the Technical Services Manager (for incidents in the labs) or Lead Nurse (for incidents in the CRU) and complete the accident and incident form in accordance with UoA policy.
10. The GP/Medical practitioner will assess the level of risk to determine further medical management.