

Risk Categorisation

Risk of Occupational Exposure to the Specified Infectious Diseases

Canberra Hospital and Health Services categorises all staff members according to their risk of occupational exposure to the specified infectious diseases. There are two categories of risk, Category A and Category B, which reflect the likelihood of exposure to infectious people and/or substances. Category A staff who perform exposure prone procedures are sub-classified as Category A-EPP.

Category A - Documentation of immunisation and/or immune status is mandatory.

Contact with patients and/or blood, body substances or infectious materials including non-clinical staff working in ward or outpatient areas.

- ▶ Direct or indirect contact with, or potential exposure to:
 - Patients/clients.
 - Deceased persons or body parts.
 - Blood, body substances, infectious material.
 - Surfaces or equipment that might contain blood, body substances, infectious material, for example, soiled linen, surgical equipment, syringes.
- ▶ Other contact that would allow the acquisition or transmission of diseases that are spread by respiratory means. This includes staff:
 - Whose work requires frequent or prolonged face-to-face contact with patients or clients (e.g. staff interviewing or counselling individual clients or small groups, staff performing reception duties in an emergency/outpatients department).
 - Whose normal work location is in a clinical area such as a ward, emergency department, outpatient clinic (e.g. ward clerks and patient transport officers).
 - Who, throughout their working week, are frequently required to attend clinical areas (e.g. food services staff who deliver meals).

Examples include, but are not limited to: dentists; doctors; contracted domestic and environmental staff, nurses; mortuary technicians; laboratory scientists; allied health practitioners; tertiary students; personal care assistants; clerical personnel on wards; maintenance engineers who service equipment; sterilising service personnel; personnel responsible for the decontamination and disposal of contaminated materials; laundry personnel; waste facility personnel (e.g. Mitchell Sterilising Services).

Staff who perform EPPs are sub-classified as Category A - EPP

- ▶ EPPs are invasive procedures where there is potential for direct contact between the skin (usually finger or thumb of the staff member) and sharp surgical instruments, needles or sharp tissues, spicules of bone or teeth in body cavities or in poorly visualised or confined body sites, including the mouth of the patient. During EPPs, there is an increased risk of transmitting BBVs between staff and patients.

Category B - Documentation of immunisation and/or immune status is not required - Category B staff have no greater risk of exposure than the general community.

No contact with patients or blood, body substances or infectious materials.

- ▶ Do NOT have contact with, or potential exposure to:
 - Patients/clients.
 - Deceased persons or body parts.
 - Blood, body substances, infectious material.
 - Surfaces or equipment that might contain blood, body substances, infectious material, for example, soiled linen, surgical equipment, syringes.
- ▶ Do NOT have other contact that would allow the acquisition or transmission of diseases that are spread by respiratory means.
- ▶ Normal work location is not in a clinical area e.g. administrative positions not in a ward, food services personnel in kitchens.
- ▶ Only attends clinical areas infrequently and for short periods of time e.g. maintenance contractor undertaking work in clinical area.

Examples include, but are not limited to: administration and clerical personnel in non-clinical work settings; some secondary students; stores personnel, kitchen personnel.