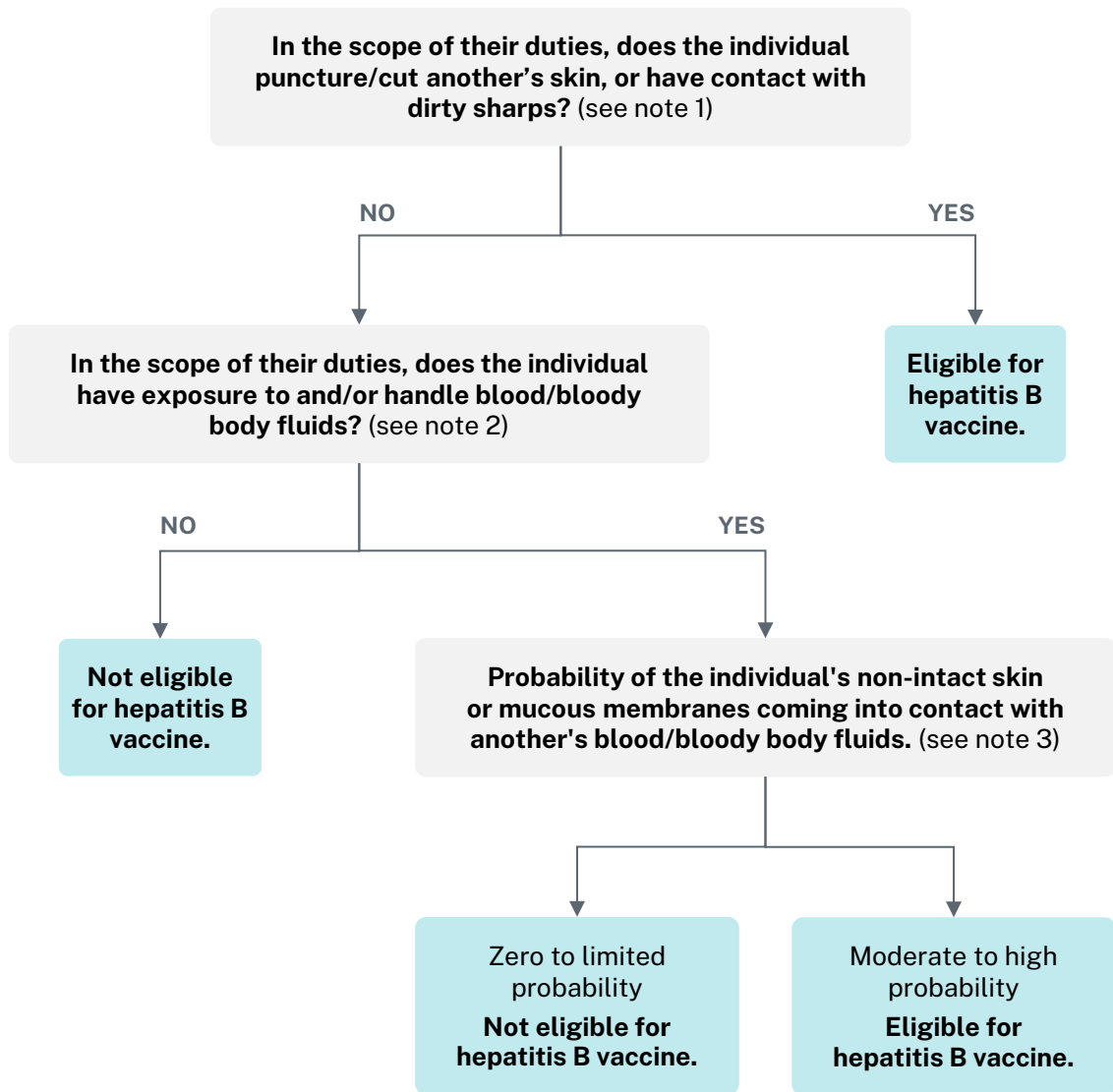


Hepatitis B Risk Assessment



This risk assessment algorithm may be used in **circumstances of uncertainty** to assist with determining eligibility for hepatitis B vaccine. **The clinical judgment of the nurse interviewing the client will take precedence.**

Note 1

Individuals who, while performing their duties, puncture or cut another person's skin should receive hepatitis B vaccine. This includes administering injections, body piercing, tattooing. Those who handle or have contact with dirty sharps while performing their duties should receive hepatitis B vaccine.

Note 2

The type of fluid and the type of potential injury (see Note 3) are important considerations for assessing risk. Body fluids that are visibly contaminated with blood can transmit hepatitis B virus (HBV). Blood, serum, plasma, semen, vaginal secretions and saliva as well as other body fluids (pleural, amniotic, pericardial, peritoneal, synovial and cerebrospinal) may contain the virus. Transmission from breast milk is unlikely. Feces, nasal secretions, sputum, sweat, tears, urine, and vomitus are not implicated unless they are visibly contaminated with blood.

Note 3

In addition to assessing the type of fluids (see Note 2), the probability of certain types of injuries occurring to an individual while performing their duties, should be considered. In relation to the risk of transmission of hepatitis B virus, the probability of injuries involving contact with blood/bloody body fluids (as described in Note 2) with non-intact skin or tissue under the skin (as in a bite when the skin is broken) or mucous membranes, should be assessed.

Zero to limited probability for such exposures or injuries are approximately that which a member of the general public might expect to encounter in day-to-day life outside of work. Incidental exposures that may take place on the job or at the work site, and that are not ordinarily expected, do not present a reasonable risk. In addition, the risk of transmission of hepatitis B virus in settings such as schools, playgrounds, daycare and group homes is generally limited and adequately controlled by common hygienic measures.

If a resident or child in such settings is known to have hepatitis B infection, refer to the Alberta Health Services Immunization Program Standards Manual for guidelines regarding immunization of staff/others.

References

Alberta Health. (2019, March). Alberta Guidelines for Post-Exposure Management and Prophylaxis: HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and Sexually Transmitted Infections. Government of Alberta.

Alberta Health. (2024, June). Hepatitis B. In *Alberta Public Health Disease Management Guidelines*. Government of Alberta.

Alberta Health (2015, February). Hepatitis B Virus Infection Risk Assessment for Paid workers/ Volunteers/ Students. In *Alberta Immunization Policy: Biological Products*. Government of Alberta.