



Safer Practice Notice

Status

- Active
- Updated
- Resolved

Zone Application

- Provincial
- North
- Edmonton
- Central
- Calgary
- South

29 Nov 2017

For Action By:

- Physicians
- Nurses
- Nurse Practitioners
- IPC
- EMS
- Respiratory Therapists
- Physiotherapists
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Pharmacists

Contact:

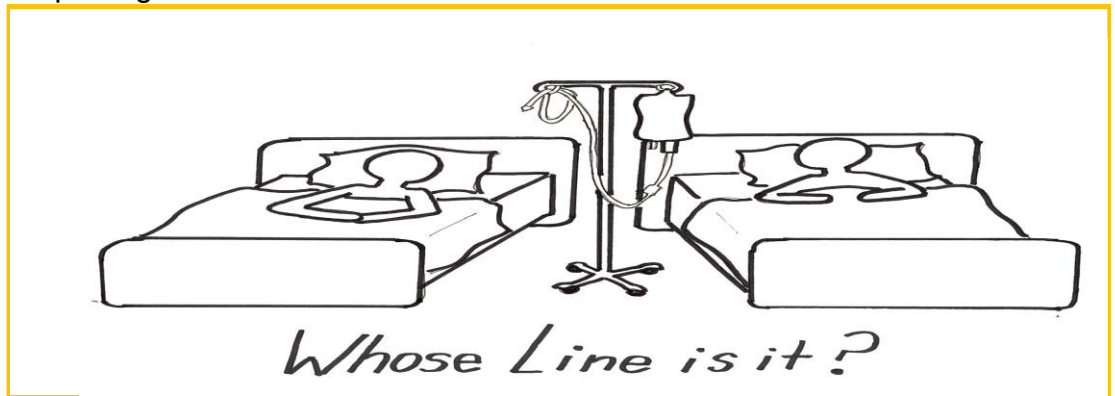
General IPC Intake
infectionpreventioncontrol@ahs.ca

RAAPID North
1-800-282-9911
RAAPID South
1-800-661-1700

Timely response and follow-up after patient exposure to blood and bodily fluids

Issue

- Patients are at risk of infection transmission when they are exposed to blood and bodily fluids (BBF) when inadvertently connected to an intravenous line belonging to another patient.
- Delayed notification may postpone prophylactic treatment for blood borne pathogens.



Other sources of exposure to Blood and Body Fluids by patients include:

- sharps/needle stick injuries
- accessing multi-dose vials with a used needle and syringe
- improperly reprocessed critical and semi-critical medical devices
- re-use of single use medical devices
- ingestion of expressed breast milk from an unintended source mother

Action

- Notify most responsible physician/ nurse practitioner
- Notify unit/program manager
- Contact Site/Zone Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) Program-daytime
- Contact On Call IPC/ Medical Officer of Health (MOH)- after hours
- * Contact numbers can be obtained through RAAPID
- IPC Physician or MOH will assess exposure risk and determine next steps:
 - ✓ Complete Consent to Blood Testing from source patient as required
 - ✓ Prophylaxis and follow-up of exposed patient
 - ✓ Manage ongoing clinical needs and provide emotional support
- Refer to [Guide to Potential Patient Exposures: Decision Chart](#)
- Disclose adverse event as per AHS policy

Protect patients from blood & bodily fluid exposure by labelling IV lines/tubing and following AHS policies on patient verification