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EMI Toolkit: Guidelines for the Emergency Management of Injuries (including needlestick and sharps injuries, sexual exposure and human bites)

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Publication Year: 2016

External Link

<http://www.emitoolkit.ie>

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Description

These guidelines are intended for use in emergency medical settings where a patient first presents with an injury (including needlestick or other sharps injury, sexual exposure, human bite, exposure of broken skin or of mucous membranes) where there is a risk of transmission of infection, in particular bloodborne viruses (BBV).

These guidelines are relevant to injuries occurring to members of the public in a community setting and also to injuries sustained occupationally (such as to healthcare workers (HCW) or members of the Garda).

The terms “recipient” and “source” will be used throughout these guidelines:

Recipient: the person who sustains the injury.

Source: The source of the potentially infected material, eg the person on whom the sharp was used, the person who bites, or the source of the blood or body fluid.

The BBVs considered in these guidelines are hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Format	Weblink
Keywords	emergency treatment, sexual deviance, sexual offences, sharps, needlestick injuries, occupational accidents, occupational exposure, occupational hazards, occupational health and safety
Publisher	Health Protection Surveillance Centre
Classification	occupational health and safety
Alternative Title	EMI Guidelines
Categories:	Reports, Irish Content
External Link	http://www.emitoolkit.ie