Hotel Bloodborne Pathogen Safety



A general guide of best practices and procedures for bloodborne pathogens in a hotel or motel setting including the most common injuries and exposures.

BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS / SHARPS BASICS
FOR HOTELS

THE HAZARD: Hepatitis B, HIV, other diseases that may be in blood, urine, saliva, vomit, semen, feces, and other human body fluids/wastes.

THE STANDARD:--OSHA 1910.1030. Requires specific precautions for employees within Health Care related fields, Designated First Aiders, and others whose jobs will likely expose them to Blood borne pathogens. Although hotels are not specifically covered by the standard, a reasonable, minimal approach is recommended to ensure employees are (1.) Aware of the Hazard and (2) Know what to do under certain circumstances.

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HOTEL EXPOSURES: (Sources) (1). Body fluids on bed linens, sheets. . Body fluids on floors, counters. (2). Exposure to "sharps", including hypodermic syringes, blood-sampling devices, discarded razor blades, all of which may be thrown in trash cans, or left laying on floor, or counters.

MOST COMMON INJURY METHODS: (1).Housekeepers reaching into trash receptacles, being stuck by sharps. (2.) Housekeepers coming in contact with body fluids on bed linens. (3) Laundry personnel being stuck by sharps, or contacting body fluids on linens. (4) Housekeepers, maintenance staff being stuck by needles, through plastic trash bags, and/or through canvas housekeeping trash receptacles.

WHAT TO DO: Have a program addressing bloodborne pathogens, as it pertains to the likely exposures to your employees. Based on OSHA "Universal Precautions of PPE/barriers, Engineering Controls, and Work Practices.

1) Train all new employees (this sheet may be used as a basic outline) about bloodborne pathogens, also, provide periodic (suggested at least 1x yearly) "in-service" refresher training about BBP's.
   Suggested topics: (Others may be necessary, depending on your operations)
   - Recognition of the hazard—needles, other devices; puddles on/in beds, on floor, etc.
   - Procedures to use for normal operations to minimize exposure to BBP's.
   - Procedures to use when hazards are found (needle on floor, puddle of blood, etc.)
   - How to use the engineering controls provided.
   - What to do if you contact fluids, or are stuck with needles, etc.

2) Develop standard operating procedures & train in use. (Including, but not limited to)
   - Look carefully in room for hazards, as you start work. If any doubt, don gloves.
   - Never reach into trash receptacle, remove trash by pulling out liner by top edges, or by dumping.
   - Keep all bags, plastic and canvas, away from body at all times.
   - Watch linens carefully as they're being handled, fold and handle so as to minimize contact with skin, and so any sharps within can't stick you.
   - Notify head housekeeper when suspected puddle, or sharp is found.
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3) Have a policy/procedure as to whom is to handle the sharp for disposal, don't just pick it up.
4) Have a policy/procedure as to cleaning of puddles (i.e. sterilization of carpet, counter, etc.)

5) Provide engineering controls such as: (may be others, depending on your operation)
   - All room trash receptacles will have liners. Liners will be disposed full, not emptied.
   - Provide sharps container on at least one housekeeping cart per floor/wing, (recommended on all carts, if sharps are found often) and have a procedure as to who is to pick up sharp and put it into the container.
   - Provide hard-sided (plastic) trash on housekeeping cart, in lieu of canvas.
   - Provide adequate quantities of disinfectants listed for Hepatitis C, HIV, and other diseases, implement procedure how to use them properly.
   - Provide adequate space in laundry so linens and towels can be spread out and inspected for sharps, body fluids before being picked up and manually loaded into machines. (Mechanized handling/loading OK)
   - Personal Protective Equipment (gloves [doubled], surgical mask with eye shield, etc.

NOTICE: *This information is provided only as a general guide, and is not intended to cover all standards, legal obligations, nor good work practices. As we cannot anticipate all variables of your workplace, please use this guide to assist you in formulating your own specific standards, practices, and procedures.*