

Module 11

Occupational Infections

Hello everybody!

This week it's infection time: where are working people "at risk" to get infected during and because of their work. You will be surprised how often we forget this aspect of working life!! Have fun! Wagner

Learning objectives:

At the end of this module you should be able to

1. to conduct a hazards identification and hazards and assessment of risks at the workplace in reference to risks of occupational infections
2. to identify and manage important work-related infections and their causes
3. to suggest preventive and hazards control measures for occupational diseases and train employees accordingly

Mandatory Reading:

Read through the chapter in **Joseph LaDou** (third edition): chapter 17 on **Occupational Infections**

Discussion question of this week:

Post a short note (approx. one paragraph or 5-10 lines) on the question:

Who - in YOUR company - is at risk to get a work-related infection?

Please note (a) the occupation, (b) the hazards and (c) possible remedies for the situation (e.g. vaccinations?)!

Post your note in the Discussion Board under the "M11-Infections" discussion thread!

Try to make the list as comprehensive as possible!! Do not forget the "other" people in your company: the cleaners, sweepers, garbage collectors, gardeners, truck drivers, OHC personnel, managers travelling in India or overseas, the guys at the effluent treatment plant, the kitchen

Assignments

A. Write your statement about infectious risks in your company (see Discussion Question) and post it in our Discussion Board!

Note: I will open this thread of discussion by posting the first email under "**M11-Infections**". Post your comment by answering to the first email of this new thread **using the REPLY button**. Only responses which are posted in the correct discussion thread will be considered for grading.

B. Read the Case Study "Vaccination Program in a Hospital" and answer the questions! You find this case study in our Resources and Case Studies. *Send it to us using the DIGITAL DROPBOX.*

C. Read the Case Study "Cost-Benefit of Vaccination Program" and answer the questions! You find this case study in our Resources and Case Studies. *Send it to us using the DIGITAL DROPBOX.*

Note: I suggest that you download the questions, write your answers into this new document. Send it to us using the DIGITAL DROPBOX.

Do NOT forget to put your NAME, the Module NUMBER and the TOPIC into the filename!

D. Voluntary Assignment: You all know the sewage workers who keep your and my sewage lines clean. The Chennai Corporation asks you to set up a vaccination program for these guys. What do you suggest??

Include reasons, type of vaccine and time between boosters in your answer and send it to us using the DIGITAL DROPBOX.

Marks

- A. You will get **15 marks** for your statement about infectious risks in your company based on the fact that they are correct, comprehensive and concise. Your assignment has to be posted in the Discussion Board.
- B. You will get **10 marks** for answering the questions of the case study.
- C. You will get **15 marks** for answering the questions of the case study.
- D. You will get **5 marks** for the voluntary assignment.

Additional Resources

Please go to **Course Material** and **Other Resources** to find additional links and documents on

- **USA: Guideline for infection control in health care personnel, 1998** by Bolyard et al. and The Hospital Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee: Published simultaneously in AJIC: American Journal of Infection Control (1998;26:289-354) and Infection Control and Hospital

Epidemiology(1998;19:407-63), available at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/GUIDE/InfectControl98.pdf> . *Very good guideline for exposure & prevention in hospitals & health care.*

- OSHA/USA: Safety and Health Topics: **Health Care Facilities** resource page at <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/healthcarefacilities/index.html>
- OSHA/USA etool **Hospital**:
<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/hospital/mainpage.html>
- OSHA etool **Nursing Home**:
<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/nursinghome/index.html>
- NIOSH Health Care Workers: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/healthcare/>
(*awesome resources!*)
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Information for handling **needle stick injuries** and how to do a correct **post-exposure prophylaxis** after infectious contact to prevent Hep B, Hep C and HIV are also in **Resources**.

N. Wagner