ANNUAL SAFETY TRAINING – 2014
Module # 1

BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS / EXPOSURE CONTROL

Current research shows that using universal precautions (treating all specimens as though infectious) when handling blood and body fluid specimens greatly decreases exposures to bloodborne pathogens. When clinical laboratory staff, phlebotomists, or healthcare workers fail to use safety measures consistently, bloodborne pathogen exposures greatly increase. You can prevent exposures by following simple safety procedures. Properly wearing the appropriate personal protective equipment is a good example. In accordance with epidemiology, the greatest risks currently identified for healthcare workers are: Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV. Hepatitis B & C can cause severe liver damage. HIV attacks the body's immune system and causes it to break down. Some people with HIV go on to develop AIDS. Hepatitis B is a much greater risk to healthcare workers. It is more easily transmitted than Hepatitis C. A large number of people with Hepatitis C will develop chronic infections and serious liver disease. In accordance to OSHA Standard 29 CFR 1910.1030, we are required to follow regulatory guidelines to prevent bloodborne pathogen related illnesses in the work environment. It is important to always follow safe work practices to prevent bloodborne pathogen exposures including needlesticks, skin exposures, facial exposures, and other potential bloodborne pathogen exposures and related injuries. Some States like the California also have their own regulations and guidelines we must follow such as the CAL OSHA Standard (CCR Title 8, 5193) for Bloodborne Pathogens. By following safety procedures and guidelines you can prevent the risk of exposure to Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV. The following procedures can help reduce the risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens:

- Wear the required and appropriate personal protective equipment properly at all times. This may include gloves, face shield, lab coat, and other PPE per your job/duty functions.
- Use caution when handling samples and specimens, maintain a strong focus while performing tasks, and maintain consideration for co-workers.
- Wash hands thoroughly after performing any laboratory task. Wash hands between each patient after removing gloves. (Hand washing is rated as the number 1 protection against infections)

- Never eat, drink, apply makeup / lip balm, handle contact lenses, or smoke in designated bio-hazardous areas where laboratory work is being performed or patients are being drawn. These functions should only be done in a designated area after removing PPE and washing hands thoroughly.
- Keep food in designated clean break areas. Never store food where laboratory specimens or blood are being stored.
- Clean up all spills immediately! Be sure to use proper PPE! Dispose of all waste into the appropriately designated waste container.
- Follow the procedures and guidelines as provided in the Quest Diagnostics Environmental Health & Safety Manual.
- When using sharps, always follow safe handling procedures and techniques to prevent injury.

- Discard used and contaminated sharps in sharps containers. Use extreme caution during disposal. Never reach into a sharps container!
- All biohazard specimens and waste should be clearly labeled as a biohazard.

- Report all injuries immediately to your Manager / Supervisor, and or the EHS (Safety) resource.
- Keep work areas free of clutter, and utilize good hygiene while performing work duties and functions. Use diluted 1/10 bleach solution and or the recommended disinfecting antimicrobial cleaning agents to clean work areas and surfaces of worktables and benches. Always use the proper PPE when performing clean up.
- Inspect PPE as required and replace it as necessary. Just as you would not operate an unsafe vehicle, your PPE must be in good working order. Never perform work duties requiring PPE without it.
- Employees working in areas of potential exposure should get vaccinated for Hepatitis B. (Hepatitis B vaccinations are offered at no cost to employees). A Hep B vaccination can allow for protective immunity to the Hep B virus.

Labels should display this universal biohazard symbol.

- Use appropriate engineering controls for assigned tasks. Perform tasks with minimal risk. Remember to maintain safety standards at all times. Help reduce exposures by keeping samples or specimens in the proper transportation containers, engaging safety needle devices, and wearing the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Evaluations on PPE are conducted by company Best Practice Teams, Corporate Procurement, and others to reduce risks of exposure and injury to employees and to ensure quality and safety.
- Ensure all biohazard containers have lids on containers and closed when not in use.
- In the event of an exposure, contact your manager/supervisor and your EHS resource immediately. You will be assisted with treatment and post exposure follow up through our Workers' Compensation medical provider network (MPN). In the event of an emergency situation, call 911 immediately, and follow up with Manager/Supervisor and your EHS resource as soon as possible.
- A copy of the Quest Diagnostics Bloodborne Pathogen – Exposure Control Pan SOP can be found on the company EHS webpage and also in hard copy Environmental, Health and Safety Manuals (hard) binders at many sites. Review the SOP and familiarize yourself with all other EHS SOP's contained in the Environmental, Health and Safety manual and website.

Reference : *OSHA 1910.1030 OSHA Standards for Bloodborne Pathogens available here:* http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=standards&p_id=10051