

## **DermEffects IPAC Lapse – Information for Health Care Providers**

Patients are at potential risk of exposure if they underwent a procedure involving reusable instruments that require sterilization before being re-used on another patient. The following procedures were identified as part of the IPAC lapse at DermEffects:

### **Procedures and Reusable Instruments of Concern:**

- Punch biopsies and excisional biopsies
- Skin lesion removals (excision of moles, skin tags, warts, etc.)
- Curettage and cautery

*This notice does NOT apply to the following procedures where multi-use tools do not meet non-intact skin or mucous membranes.*

### **Medical Dermatology Procedures NOT included:**

*Unless combined with one of the procedures listed above (biopsy, curettage and cautery, excision):*

- Liquid nitrogen cryotherapy
- Prescription creams
- Photodynamic therapy (PDT)
- Lasers and light therapy

### **Medical Cosmetic Services NOT included:**

- Injections (ex. Botox-type, dermal filler, double chin treatment, etc.)
- Platelet-Rich Plasma (PRP) Therapy
- Laser therapy
- Microneedling

## What should I do next?

- Assess the patient's procedure history – confirm whether they underwent a procedure listed above and whether reusable instruments were used.
- Discuss potential risks with the patient – Bloodborne pathogen exposure can occur when instruments contaminated with blood or body fluids are improperly sterilized.
- Consider testing for bloodborne infections – hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV testing is recommended for affected patients.
- Refer to additional resources – The Middlesex-London Health Unit provides guidance on blood and body fluid exposures, including risks, prevention, and treatment. [www.healthunit.com/body-fluid-exposures-mbta](http://www.healthunit.com/body-fluid-exposures-mbta)

## Exposure Risks and Transmission Information:

Blood, saliva, urine, feces, and other bodily fluids can carry infections. Exposure to these fluids poses a risk of infectious disease transmission. An exposure may include:

- A needle stick or cut from a sharp object contaminated with blood or bodily fluids.
- Blood or bodily fluids contacting broken skin (e.g., open cut, wound, dermatitis).
- Blood or bodily fluids contacting mucous membranes (e.g., eyes, nose, mouth).

## Testing Information and Requisitions

- **Public Health Ontario Laboratory Test Requisitions & Testing Information:**
  - **Hepatitis B:** [General Test Requisition](#), [Testing Information](#)
  - On the PHOL requisition, please check “Immune status” “Acute Infection” *and* “Chronic Infection”
  - **Hepatitis C:** [General Test Requisition](#), [Testing Information](#)
  - **Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV):** [HIV Serology & PCR Test Requisition](#), [Testing Information](#)
- **Hepatitis B Information:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/hepatitis-b.html>
- **Hepatitis C Information:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/hepatitis-c.html>
- **HIV/AIDS Information:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/hiv-aids.html>