



**BC Centre for Disease Control**  
An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

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**March 5, 2010**

**ATTN:** Medical Health Officers and Branch Offices  
Public Health Nursing Administrators and Assistant Administrators  
Holders of Communicable Disease Control Manuals

**Re: Revisions to Communicable Disease Control Manual:  
Chapter 1 – Management of Specific Diseases – Blood and Body  
Fluid Exposure Management**

**Please note the following:**

**Table of Contents**

- Updated to reflect change in page number for subsection 5.2 due to added content.

**Page 3, Section 4.0 Definitions**

- Added definition of qualitative HCV PCR test for clarity and consistency within guidelines. HCV PCR will be used throughout the guideline. Please note the current quantitative HCV RNA test is equally sensitive but more expensive and therefore used for treatment monitoring.

**Page 4, Section 5.2 Triage**

- Section starts on page 4 due to added content on previous page. No change to section content.

**Administrative Circular 2010:02**

**Page 5, Section 5.3 Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Management****Algorithm: Exposed Person**

- HCV arm of algorithm if source is HCV+: Changed the name of the test from HCV RT-PCR to HCV PCR.

**Page 9, Subsection 5.4.2 Assess the risk of transmission from the source**

- Clarified that the window period for HCV infection (measured by anti-HCV) may be 6 months or longer in immunocompromised patients. In order to detect infection earlier, HCV PCR is recommended at 3 weeks.

**Pages 13 and 14, Section 7.0 Arrange clinical and laboratory follow-up**

- Changed “BCCDC Laboratory Services, PHSA Laboratories” to “BCCDC Public Health Microbiology & Reference Laboratory” for consistency with the organization.

**Page 15, Table 3: Testing of the exposed person**

- At “three weeks post exposure” under “rationale for testing,” test changed to HCV PCR test. The same change was made in footnote ③.

**Page 22, Section 9.4 HCV exposure**

- Changed test name to HCV PCR for exposed persons.

**Page 27, Subsection 10.5.1 Considerations pertaining to breast feeding**

- Changed test name to HCV PCR and changed time frame for testing to 3 weeks post HCV exposure, instead of 2 weeks as previously stated. The time frame was changed for consistency within the document.

**Pages 37 to 42, Appendix C: HCV occupational exposure fact sheet**

- The footer is updated on all pages to reflect date of most recent revision and the new BCCDC website URL.

**Page 38**

- Because the appendix may be referenced independently of the guidelines, the definition of HCV PCR test is included again and replaces the previous RNA PCR test definition. The definition in the appendix is the same as that in section 4.0 of the guidelines.

**Page 39**

- Updated flowchart of testing schedule for a person exposed to HCV.
- Specified HCV PCR test to be completed at 3 weeks post-exposure, instead of 2-3 weeks as previously stated.

**Please remove and destroy the following pages from the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 1 – Management of Specific Diseases, Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Management:**

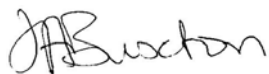
Table of Contents	Dated March 2009
Pages 3, 5, 9, 13, 22, 39	Dated May 2009
4, 14, 15, 27, 37, 38, 40 to 42	Dated March 2009

**Please insert the following pages in the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 1 – Management of Specific Diseases, Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Management:**

Table of Contents	Dated March 2010
Pages 3 to 5, 9, 13 to 15, 22, 27, and 37 to 42	Dated March 2010

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Karen Pielak, Nurse Epidemiologist, or Cheryl McIntyre, Associate Nurse Epidemiologist, at telephone (604) 707-2510, fax (604) 707-2516 or by email at [karen.pielak@bccdc.ca](mailto:karen.pielak@bccdc.ca) or [cheryl.mcintyre@bccdc.ca](mailto:cheryl.mcintyre@bccdc.ca)

Sincerely,



Dr. Jane Buxton  
Physician Epidemiologist  
Epidemiology Services and Hepatitis Services  
BC Centre for Disease Control

pc: Dr. Judy Isaac-Renton  
Public Health Laboratory Director  
BCCDC Public Health Microbiology & Reference Laboratory  
PHSA Laboratories

**Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport:**

Dr. Perry Kendall  
Provincial Health Officer

Dr. Eric Young  
Deputy Provincial Health Officer

Dr. Bob Fisk  
Medical Consultant  
Non-Communicable Disease

Craig Thompson  
Director, CD Prevention – Immunization

Warren O'Briain  
Executive Director  
Communicable Disease and Addiction Prevention