

Questions And Answers For OSHA Compliance

1) When must employees have training on Bloodborne Pathogens?

Answer: The Bloodborne Pathogens Standard requires training be provided at three times: (1) When initially employed and (2) yearly thereafter. (3) The third situation will not occur often. This is when there is a change in jobs or duties. This may be when a receptionist or office manager is required to assist occasionally in patient care. This person will need initial training and yearly training thereafter.

2) Who in the dental office must be offered the Hepatitis B vaccine?

Answer: Any employees who are exposed to blood. This would be employees who are involved in patient care such as the dentist, dental assistant and hygienist. If there are employees who are occasionally involved in patient care, such as a receptionist or office manager, they must be offered the vaccine also.

3) Where should sharps containers be located?

Answer: The Bloodborne Pathogens Standard states "As close as feasible to the immediate area where sharps are use". This can be interpreted to mean every operatory or where needles and scalpels are being used.

4) An OSHA Medical Record must be kept on which employees?

Answer: Any employees who are exposed to blood. This would be employees who are involved in patient care such as the dentist, dental assistant and hygienist. If there are employees who are occasionally involved in patient care, such as a receptionist or office manager, they must have a medical record also. This medical record is not like the ones that a physician or hospital would keep on patients. At least initially, it is a very simple record that only requires (1) the employees name, (2) the employees social security number and (3) the dates of the hepatitis B vaccination.

5) Are dental offices required to use safety needles and safety scalpels?

Answer: No. However, dental offices are required to consider their use once a year and document this consideration.