

BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS PROGRAM

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The final rule on the Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens was published in the *Federal Register* on December 6, 1991. This Standard, 29 CFR Part 1910.130, is expected to prevent 8,900 hepatitis B infections and 200 deaths a year in health care workers in the United States. The Occupational Medicine and Environmental Health Services (OMEHS) at Kennedy Space Center (KSC) has been planning to implement this Standard for several years.

In 1987, the Morbidity and Mortality Report, published by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), made recommendations for the prevention of HIV transmission in health care settings. As a result, most of the engineering and work practice controls, personal protective equipment, housekeeping functions, and hepatitis vaccination had been implemented at OMEHS clinics by December 1991. The program was expanded when the Standard was published in the *Federal Register* to include emergency first aid responders and janitors in addition to medical people in the clinics.

The Standard includes a training requirement. Since EG&G Florida comprises the greatest number of people involved at the Kennedy Space Center, its Exposure Control Plan includes provisions for a course which was titled, numbered, and available for all KSC and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station employees. Moreover, since the hepatitis vaccine was located in the EG&G medical facilities, any eligible employee from any company could receive the hepatitis vaccine from EG&G Medical.

The EG&G Exposure Control Plan for Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens was published May 1, 1992. The training course was established and offered on a regular basis so that any new employee could be trained within the time required by the Standard. A roster of all who attend the training course is maintained. Utilizing our Health Information Management System (HIMS) of computerized medical records, EG&G Florida is able to code those who have received the hepatitis vaccine and those who have completed their bloodborne pathogen training. We are also able to identify those who decline the hepatitis vaccine.

A large number of people at the Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station are in the program (see Exhibit 1). All of these people have had the one-and one-half hour training course. About one-fourth of the KSC Fire and Security personnel have declined the hepatitis vaccine. Johnson Controls Fire personnel have not elected to act as emergency first aid responders and, therefore, have not entered the program.

Exhibit 1. Hepatitis B Vaccine

AGENCY	BBP POPULATION	ACCEPTED	DECLINED
CIVIL SERVICE			
NASA MEDICAL	4	4	-0-
NAT. PARK SVC.	9	9	-0-
EG&G FLORIDA			
MEDICAL	58	57	1
FIRE	121	92	29
SECURITY	212	163	49
JANITORS	6	6	-0-
BIONETICS			
MEDICAL	45	44	1
JOHNSON			
CONTROLS	72	60	12
FIRE	-0-	-0-	-0-
SECURITY	9	8	1
JANITORS			
THIOKOL			
DIVERS	4	4	-0-
TWRS			
JANITORS	-0-	-0-	-0-
TOTALS	540	447	93

The medical records of any person exposed are kept strictly confidential and separate from an individual's medical records. All testing is coded so that only the physician will know the identify of any exposed person.

In the first nine months we have presented 60 classes and 90 hours of training to 540 personnel. We utilize our nursing educators in addition to the AMA video program to ensure that our training is specific to our settings.

The cost for this program as been over \$50,000 for the vaccine. This does not include the costs for needles, syringes, the personnel costs including medical time, or employees' time absent from work to obtain the vaccine.

In conclusion, we feel that we have a very complete, comprehensive Bloodborne Pathogen Program at Kennedy Space Center.

