



Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens

Protection against blood-borne infections in the workplace: HIV and Hepatitis

Issue

1. The final draft of the blood borne virus guidance is provided for member's consideration.

Background

2. Members have reviewed this guidance on previous occasions and will recall that following the major consultation exercise at the turn of this year numerous comments were received, which have now been assessed, and where appropriate included in this latest draft. A list of the consultation responders was provided at the ACDP meeting in February and this group captured a wide range of contributors, which importantly included comments from health advisors within the devolved Governments of the UK. While comments from the latter health professionals acknowledged the positive aspects of the draft, they also concluded that the whole document was too 'English-centric', with most cited guidance centred on English authorship. The working group responded positively to this suggestion by reassessing the entire document, to ensure it was more inclusive of devolved administration health initiatives and any authoritative advice and guidance available from them.

3. Closely linked with this amendment process was an offer of support from a Lead Consultant Occupational Physician based in Scotland. This valuable input generated a number of useful suggestions that the working group recognised would further improve the impact of the document necessitating additional work on the draft, which has now also taken place. Additionally, differences were identified between NHS and HSE recommendations for employee health record maintenance, and for a system of access to those records by the occupational health professionals who support them. This matter was discussed at ACDP's February meeting, since when HSE have subsequently met with NHS representatives and reached agreement on a way forward. These amendments are now also included within the draft.

Action

Members are asked to review this near final draft, comment and advise the Secretariat of its suitability for publication. Following ACDP endorsement the draft will be subject to a professional editing process to ensure its suitability as web based guidance.

ACDP Secretariat
May 2009