

GERMS CAN LIVE IN BLOOD.

WHERE IS THE RISK?

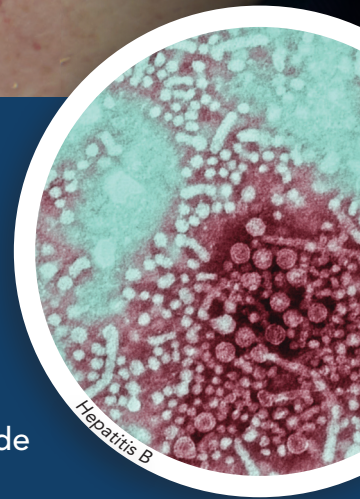
Know where germs live to stop spread
and protect patients



- Viruses like HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C can spread in healthcare when contaminated blood is on a sharp item.
- If that item causes a cut or break in someone else's skin (e.g., an accidental needlestick), germs can spread to that person and cause a new infection.
- Reusing needles or syringes is especially risky because germs in the blood can spread from one person to another.
- Blood in the environment – like on linens or a device – grows bacteria and spreads via touch or devices.

Germs That Can Live in Blood

- HIV
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C
- Bacteria (when outside the body)



Healthcare Tasks Involving Blood

- Putting in an IV
- Giving an injection
- Surgery and procedures
- Changing soiled laundry

Infection Control Actions to Reduce Risk

- Hand hygiene
- Use of personal protective equipment (gloves, gowns, eye protection)
- Safe injections
- Cleaning and disinfection
- Textile management



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention



WWW.CDC.GOV/PROJECTFIRSTLINE