

Dental Clearance Summary - Explanatory Notes

EPP clearance (Exposure Prone Procedures)

Definition of Exposure Prone Procedures: Those procedures where there is a risk that an injury to the worker may result in the exposure of the patient's open tissue to the blood of the worker – as a result there would be a risk to the patient if the worker was a carrier of Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C or HIV.

Dentists and other dental staff (including dental nurses, therapists, hygienists, clinical dental technicians) undertaking exposure prone procedures (EPPs), are required to **provide documented evidence** of having undergone an **identity validated blood test showing a Hepatitis B surface antigen status, Hepatitis C antibody and HIV antibody**. This is for any EPP posts commencing after May 2008 and is to comply with Scottish Government Health Clearance Guidelines.

If this information is not available, there may be a delay in the Occupational Health clearance and hence the date that you could commence clinical practice. If you are aware that you have any infectious disease or other health related condition that may impact upon your work, you have a responsibility to discuss these with the Occupational Health Service.

Managers' are responsible for indicating on the OHS paperwork if EPP clearance is required. **They should also forward the clearance summary to the dental contracts team if required.**

Outcome:

- Fit - Fit for EPP work with no repeat testing required unless it is indicated. *"All healthcare workers are under an ongoing obligation to seek professional advice about the need to be tested if they have been exposed to a serious communicable disease, obviating the need for repeat testing. This obligation applies equally to healthcare workers already in post."*
- Fit with recall - This means that the clearance is only valid for 3 or 12 months. Managers should ensure they receive updated reports in order to allow EPP work to continue.
- Unfit - Not fit for EPP work.

Immunisation Clearance

The purpose of immunisation is to protect workers and their families, patients, and colleagues, from any occupational risk of contracting disease that is preventable by immunisation. Immunisation also contributes to the efficient running of services without disruption. Employers recognise the risk from infectious diseases that may be acquired at work, and the important role of staff in preventing spread to patients and service users as well as the legal duty to protect staff whilst they are at work.

OHS have developed a staff immunisation arrangement to ensure that employees and patients are protected from diseases preventable by immunisation.

Risk Assessment

A risk assessment is undertaken for the role to identify which hazards staff may be exposed to in the workplace. Those staff considered to be at risk of exposure to infectious diseases will be offered routine pre-exposure immunisation if available, e.g., Hep B vaccine. This applies to all clinical staff and any other groups who may be exposed, such as administrative.

Confidentiality

Occupational health staff work within strict guidelines on confidentiality and are obliged, ethically and professionally, not to release information without the informed consent of the individual. Occupational health notes are separate from other hospital notes.

Immunisation Clearance

Following immunisation, managers and the workers themselves, need to have sufficient information about the outcome. This will allow appropriate decisions to be made about potential work restrictions, and appropriate action following exposure to relevant infections, such as an infection outbreak. Following OHS assessment of immunisation status and immunisation as appropriate, a Dental Clearance Summary will be issued to you and copied to your manager. The manager will keep a copy of this in your personal file and may be used in the event of an infectious disease outbreak or exposure.

- Cleared - Considered to be immune to the infection
- Not Cleared - Not considered to be immune to the infection. This can be for several reasons, including - Medical contraindication to vaccine, immunisation declined, non responder to immunisation. Managers are not advised of the reason.
- In Progress - This means the vaccination programme has been started but not completed.

If you have not received immunisations recommended for your post, your manager should undertake an appropriate risk assessment and duties may be restricted. If you do not consent for the Immunisation Clearance Report to be sent to your manager, OHS will contact you to discuss. Following discussion, should you still decline consent, OHS will advise your manager that we are unable to comment on your immunisation status and your manager is required to undertake an appropriate risk assessment.

TB screening

TB screening includes a health questionnaire. This is the same screening questionnaire currently in use for NHS Grampian staff. It excludes any symptoms of active TB and includes information to assess the need for a Mantoux test. Not all staff will require Mantoux testing. Managers are not advised of the result of Mantoux testing, but can be assured a clinician will follow this up.

- Completed - Screening is complete as per above.
- Not Completed - We have been unable to complete this. In practice this will mean non attendance for testing or that Mantoux testing is declined.