

Dental Clearance Summary - Explanatory notes

Exposure Prone Procedures (EPP) Clearance

Managers must indicate on the EPP/Immunisation Clearance questionnaire if EPP clearance is required.

To comply with Scottish Government Health Clearance Guidelines, [Health Clearance for Tuberculosis, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV for New Healthcare Workers with Direct Clinical Contact with Patient - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot), 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 Hepatitis B surface antigen status, Hepatitis C antibody and HIV antibody blood test.

Managers have a responsibility to risk assess roles that undertake EPP work. [General dentistry exposure prone procedure \(EPP\) categorisation \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](http://publishing.service.gov.uk).

Managers are responsible for indicating on the OHS paperwork if EPP clearance is required. Where required, managers should also forward the clearance summary to the Dental Contracts Team.

1. What is EPP?

Exposure prone procedures (EPPs) are those where injury to the worker may result in exposure of the patient's open tissues to the worker's blood. These procedures include those where the worker's gloved hands may be inside a patient's mouth with sharp instruments, needle tips or sharp tissues (spicules of bone or teeth) where the hands or fingertips may not always be completely visible.

2. What is not EPP?

Procedures where the hands and fingertips of the worker are always visible and outside the patient's body, and internal examinations or procedures that do not involve possible injury to the worker's gloved hands from sharp instruments and/or tissues, are considered not to be exposure prone.

If you are working in a medical specialty, you are unlikely to be required to undertake EPP as part of your role. Examples of procedures not EPP include cleaning used instruments, cannulation, and resuscitation with appropriate personal protective equipment.

Outcomes of EPP clearance on the Dental Clearance Summary Report

All healthcare workers are under an ongoing obligation to seek advice from OHS about the need to be tested if they have been exposed to a potential blood borne virus.

- **Fit** - Fit for EPP work with no repeat testing required unless it is indicated.

- **Fit with recall** - This means that the clearance is only valid for 3, 6 or 12 months. Managers should ensure they receive updated reports to allow EPP work to continue.
- **Unfit** - Not fit for EPP work

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, GO Health will offer immunisations where appropriate. The Dental Clearance Summary provides the immunisation status which 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 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, and the purpose is to identify the risk of previous exposure to Tuberculosis and any further screening that may be indicated for example an IGRA or Mantoux test.

Possible outcome of screening:

- **Completed** - Screening is complete as per above.
- **Not Completed** - We have been unable to complete this.
- **In Progress**

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.