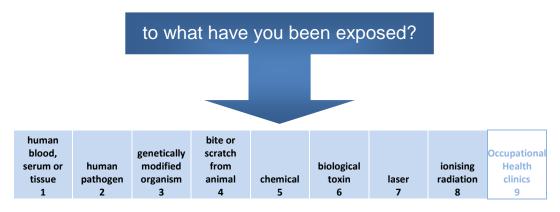
Imperial College London

Obtaining medical help after a hazardous laboratory exposure



Significant Exposure		Inoculation, cut from contaminated sharp, contamination of broken skin or splash into mouth, eye or nose	
Source of help		 Campus OH clinic or local A&E if closed College OH Service 	
Speed		Within 1 hour	
Comments		If the wound is sufficient to require medical treatment beyond simple first aid, go to A&E first. Take any information available on the source of the material: donor, supplier, antibody or other virology data (negative tests results are as important as positives). If the donor is traceable, the treating OH Service may wish to contact the donor to arrange to test them, in confidence, for infection with blood borne virus.	
human blood, serum or tissue 1			

_ ~	Significant ExposureVarious (risk assessment should specify). Inoculation or mucosal splash should <i>always</i> be regarded as significant. Exposure to aerosol may be significant		
Source of help	2 Local ASE if out of hours & same day assessment required		
Speed		Same day— next work day (see comments)	
Comments		For most exposures immediate treatment to prevent infection is not necessary. Follow-up to monitor for infection will be needed but can begin the next working day and will be carried out by the College OH Service. Where post-exposure prophylaxis may be needed, then the medical assessment should be the same day. If seeking help from A&E, take a copy of the risk assessment (DP1) or emergency treatment protocol if one exists	
	human pathogen 2		

Significant Exposure	Various (risk assessment should specify). Inoculation or mucosal splash should <i>always</i> be regarded as significant. Exposure to aerosol may be significant		
Source of help	College OH Service, South Kensington		
Speed	By next work day		
Comments	For most GMO exposures immediate treatment to prevent infection is not necessary, or possible. Follow-up to monitor for signs of infection will be needed but can begin the next working day. It will be carried out by the College OH Service.		
	genetically modified organism 3		

Significant Exposure	Breach of skin: puncture wound or bleeding		
Source of help	 Local A&E department College OH Service 		
Speed	Immediate or same day or report only, dependant on circumstances		
Comments	 Immediate A&E for major allergic reaction (collapse or difficulty breathing) Same day A&E for wounds sufficient to require a dressing or for rat bites over finger joints. Same day College OH Service assessment for bites from animal infected with human pathogen Report lesser allergic reactions via College accident reporting procedure 		

bite or scratch from animal 4

Significant Exposure	Skin contamination, ingestion, inhalation or splash into mouth, eye or nose	
Source of help	 Local First Aider A&E or College Health Centre, Princes Gardens (SKen only) 	
Speed	Within 1 hour for some exposures <i>(see comments)</i> Wash immediately & complete 1 st aid before seeking medical help.	
Comments	The need for medical help will depend on the specific chemical involved & nature of exposure. Attend A & E for: all eye splashes; visible skin damage; any inhalational exposure sufficient to cause initial breathing difficulty; ingestion or extensive contamination of chemicals with 'toxic' risk phrases (R22-R28) If seeking help from the College Health Centre, phone before going.	

chemical 5

Significant Exposure	Inoculation, ingestion, contamination of broken skin		
Source of help	 College OH Service Local A&E department 		
Speed	Within 1 hour		
Comments	 A&E for any symptoms. Take the risk assessment or safety data sheet (MSDS) for the material. Otherwise, contact the College OH Service by phone in the first instance to discuss & assess the risk. Give details of: The incident Substance(s) involved Risk assessment or MSDS for the material. 		

biological toxin 6

Significant Exposure	Any flash into the eye from a Class 3B or Class 4 laser.	
Source Western Eye Hospital, 171 Marylebone Road, NW1 of help		
Speed	Same day	
Comments	Laser burns require an urgent specialist ophthalmological opinion. The eye hospital has a specialist 24 hour A&E department for assessment and treatment of eye injuries. Retinal burns are usually painless. Seek urgent assessment after <i>any</i> perceived flash event or sudden visual loss.	

laser 7

Significant Exposure	Ingestion, inhalation, inoculation, absorption, contamination of skin, exposure to radio-nuclides, beams etc		
Source of help	Phone the College RPA or one of the RPOs for advice. If not available phone the Health Protection Agency (HPA)		
Speed	Same day		
Comments	If incident/accident involves a wound sufficient to require medical treatment beyond simple first aid, go to A&E first. Take any information available on the source material inc. nuclide, activity, compound and form (solid, liquid or gas). College Radiation Protection Adviser : 07764 959 682 College RPOs: 07711 684 746 or 07725 159 734 HPA Radiation Protection Division (Oxford): 01235 831 600		

Ionising Radiation 8

OH Departments	Telephone	Location	Hours
College	(020 759) 49401	Level 4, Sherfield Building, South Kensington campus	9:00-5:00
Hammersmith	(020 331) 37010	2 nd Floor, Hammersmith House	9:00-5:00
Charing Cross	(020 331) 37010	4 th Floor, West Wing, CC Hospital	9.00-5.00 (limited service)
Chelsea & Westminster	(020 759) 49401	Level 4, Sherfield Building, South Ken.	9:00-5:00
St Marys	(020 7886) 6799	Praed Street, Basement of Mary Stanford Wing, St Mary's Hospital	8:00-4:00 (limited service)
Harefield	01895 828 721	Harefield Hospital	9:00-5:00
Northwick Park	020 8869 2580	Level 5BB, Admin Block	9:00-4:00

Notes

- 1. The College OH Service is primary source of OH support for *all* campuses. Hospital OH Departments only provide emergency assistance for exposures to clinical materials (blood, serum, human tissue).
- 2. Occupational Health departments do not always have a physician or OH nurse present throughout their opening hours. Phone before attending.
- 3. There are A&E departments at Charing Cross, Hammersmith, Chelsea & Westminster & St Mary's hospitals

NB all accidents must also be reported to the College Safety Department.