



# Integrated Sexual Health Unit Sandwell (ISHUS)

## - Leaflet for patients following Sharps Injuries or Splash exposure to body fluids

Information and advice for patients

### Integrated Sexual Health Unit Sandwell (ISHUS)

#### What are the risks?

Blood, blood stained bodily fluids or bodily fluids alone can carry infections such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Syphilis and the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). If you have come into contact with someone who may carry these infections, there is a small risk that you may also contract the same virus.

#### What will happen to me now?

1. The clinician will ask you some questions about the 'source' patient (if known) and complete a risk assessment to determine what action is to be taken.
2. Baseline bloods tests and other tests will be taken, with your consent.
3. If the risk assessment demonstrates a High risk that you were exposed to HIV, you may be offered a course of medication called Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) to reduce the risk of acquiring HIV infection
4. If the risk assessment demonstrates a high risk of contracting Hepatitis B, you may be offered a course of Hepatitis B Vaccination.
5. If the risk assessment demonstrates a low risk of contracting a blood borne infection you will be monitored as described below.

#### Will I need any further follow up tests/appointments?

Follow up tests will be needed to cover incubation periods for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Syphilis and HIV. It is important that you attend any appointments arranged by the service.

Follow up is divided into the following categories:

**Low risk:** If the 'source' patient has no known infections. Repeat blood for HIV, Syphilis, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C at 12 and 24 weeks.

**High Risk:** If 'source' patient is unknown or the blood borne virus status of the 'source' is unknown, follow up blood tests will be required at the following intervals:

- 6 weeks post incident for HIV, Syphilis, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C.
- 12 weeks post incident for HIV, Syphilis, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C.
- 24 weeks post incident for Hepatitis C.

If you accept the course of Hepatitis B Vaccinations, further appointments will be needed and arranged with you.





Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals  
NHS Trust

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## Integrated Sexual Health Unit Sandwell (ISHUS)

**For More information, please contact  
Integrated Sexual Health Unit Sandwell (ISHUS)**

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**Further information is available at**

[www.swbh.nhs.uk/services/ishus](http://www.swbh.nhs.uk/services/ishus)  
<http://www.tht.org.uk/>

For more information about our hospitals and services please see our website  
[www.swbh.nhs.uk](http://www.swbh.nhs.uk), follow us on Twitter @SWBHNhs and like us on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/SWBHNhs](https://www.facebook.com/SWBHNhs).

### Sources used for the information in this leaflet

- UK Guideline for the use of HIV Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Following Sexual Exposure (PEPSE), 2015

If you would like to suggest any amendments or improvements to this leaflet please contact the communications department on 0121 507 5303 or email: [swb-tr.swbh-gm-patient-information@nhs.net](mailto:swb-tr.swbh-gm-patient-information@nhs.net)



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