

## Needlestick Injury Guidelines

If an injury is sustained involving KNOWN HIV INFECTED or HIGH RISK blood (out-of-hours), antivirals may be considered to protect against contracting HIV infection. If the injury is significant from a *high risk* patient, the drugs may be continued until the HIV status of the donor is known. If the patient is not definitely known to be HIV infected, the advisability of taking the drugs should be discussed with someone on the list below.

Contact Microbiology to get advice **before** starting the drugs.

### Immediate Action

- Clean wound thoroughly.
- Report to your immediate local senior person.
- The reason for considering taking antiviral drugs is to reduce the risk of getting infected with HIV following the accident. Risks of becoming infected with HIV and the risks associated with taking antiviral drugs are discussed in the information sheet included in the starter pack. Locations for the starter packs are listed below.
- Triple combination therapy is recommended following a needlestick/sharps injury with blood from a suspected HIV donor. Contact microbiology for advice about starting therapy.
- If you are pregnant, or think that you may be pregnant, do NOT take these drugs. Zidovudine monotherapy is recommended for pregnant women. (Contact on-call pharmacist for supplies).
- Medication should be started as soon as possible after the incident has occurred, although it will be offered up to one week after the incident.
- The starter packs contain 5 days treatment; advice on continuation and counselling will also be offered.
- See [Infection Control Manual](#).