Handling of Human material

Guidance and Advice

Lund University

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Information on regulations and rules can be found here:

**The Swedish Work Environment Authority**

[http://www.av.se/inenglish/](http://www.av.se/inenglish/)

**AFS 2005:1 Microbiological Work Environment Risks - Infection, Toxigenic Effects, Hypersensitivity**


**AFS 1986:23 Protection against Blood-borne Infections (available in Swedish only)**


**The Swedish Authority responsible for Ethical Vetting of Research Involving Humans (EPN)**

[http://www.epn.se/start/startpage.aspx](http://www.epn.se/start/startpage.aspx)

**What must be ethically approved?**

Laws and regulations

Application

Application form
Working with human material – blood, urine, cell cultures, etc.

BEFORE you start:

Have risk assessment and classification been done?

FACTS/INFO
See regulations in AFS 2005:1 Microbiological Work Environment Risks

REQUIREMENTS
Risk assessment of the experiment/method
Classification of the material as risk class 1, 2, 3 or 4
Identification of containment level 1, 2, 3 or 4
Use of protective measures

Before taking blood samples in the lab…

FACTS/INFO
Approval for the research project must be obtained from the local EPN.

REQUIREMENTS
Pilot studies incl. blood sampling - researcher in charge decides whether the study may be carried out, and if approval from EPN is needed. Consent to take samples, incl. from colleagues - documented in a protocol.
WHEN working with material known to be infected or not tested

Always use a protective coat and gloves in the lab, preferably also a mask and protective eyewear.

Work in the LAF bench – unless the risk assessment has shown that it is not necessary.
When working at safety level 2 – the lab must have a sign.

Taking blood samples

- Plan sample collection in advance.
- Sit comfortably.
- Wash your hands before and after.
- Always use a lab coat and gloves.
- Disinfect the puncture site with 70% ethanol.
- Put used needles in a cap holder/sharps container.

If you prick or cut yourself
Wash immediately with soap and water.
Disinfect with 70 % ethanol.
If you splash liquid into your eyes or mouth - rinse thoroughly with water or saline solution.
Contact the infection clinic for advice on testing.

Inform your boss - who will report an occupational injury!

WHEN sampling is completed

Waste handling
All untreated waste is to be handled as infectious waste or infectious/sharp waste.

Test-tubes, needles, scalps, cell culture waste, etc. and GMM waste are to be put in a sharps container or a plastic bag and well sealed.

Place sharps container and bag in a hazardous waste box. Label and seal the box well.
Attach a transport
**Reporting occupational injuries**
Inform your boss and safety officer of any pricks or cuts and ensure that a report is made.

**Reporting incidents or near-accidents**
Incidents that could have led to injury or an accident must also be reported.

These guidelines were developed by a working group for the Faculty of Medicine at the request of the HMS Committee.
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Be careful when handling human material

Never take risks!