

PROTECTING EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND PEACE OF MIND WITH NEEDLESTICK TESTING



Healthcare professionals face enough challenges. You shouldn't be left worrying following a needlestick incident. With The Hartford's workers' compensation coverage, you can have confidence that payment for initial testing after an accidental needlestick is covered — for the employee *and* the patient.* We want to provide you and your employees peace of mind after a needlestick by attempting to identify any resultant medical issues as quickly as possible.

In the event of an accidental needlestick or other "sharps" injury, follow your office protocol for Universal Precautions and CDC guidelines for management of needlestick/sharps incidents. Then, please

follow these steps to ensure access to fast, appropriate care and claims resolution:

- Report the incident to the office manager.
- The office manager should contact The Hartford's Loss Connect at 1-800-327-3636 to report the claim.
- The practitioner should ask the patient to get a precautionary blood test; a signed authorization must be obtained.
- If the patient agrees, he or she can choose any appropriate medical provider — primary doctor, walk-in clinic, or medical lab are all suitable choices; test results should come directly to the practitioner.
- Blood borne pathogen standards currently require three assays on the blood:
 - Hepatitis B
 - HIV
 - Hepatitis C
- The employee should also get a blood test. The Hartford's Network Referral Unit can provide the name of a suitable network provider. Call 1-800-327-3636 and select 4 at the prompt.
- The blood tests, for both patient and employee, ideally should be taken as soon as possible following the incident.
- The claims handler will provide your office with the address where bills for the patient's tests should be submitted for reimbursement.
- Other medical bills, including the employee blood test, should be submitted normally.

* To help ensure "source patient" confidentiality and encourage participation, The Hartford requires the healthcare provider to pay the initial laboratory charge, then follow a protocol to remove individually identifiable patient information. The Hartford will fully reimburse all applicable incurred laboratory charges.