I. POLICY:

House Staff who sustain an occupational exposure to a patient’s body fluids through a percutaneous, mucus membrane or skin site are to be evaluated at the Employee Health Department – or the Emergency Department when Employee Health is not available. **Occupational exposures should be considered urgent medical concerns to ensure timely administration of PEP, if indicated. These evaluations should be done within one to two hours (preferably one), and no later than 36 hours post exposure.**

NYUWH House Staff and non-employed rotating House Staff exposed while rotating at an NYUWH facility will not be responsible for any medical costs associated with post-exposure evaluation.

II. DEFINING AN OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE

Two criteria are used to determine whether an exposure provides a route for bloodborne disease transmission - the body fluid involved and the type of injury or contact.

Body fluids that have been recognized by the Centers for Disease Control as directly linked to the transmission of HBV/C and/or HIV are: blood, blood products, semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, peritoneal fluid, pericardial fluid, amniotic or other body fluid visibly contaminated with blood.

The types of injuries linked to transmission are: percutaneous (i.e. needle stick) or direct contact with blood or bloody fluid to a mucous membrane or non-intact skin. Transmission of HIV via a human bite is based on the likelihood of blood to blood contact.

III. Procedure:

a. **IMMEDIATE ACTION:**
   i. **STOP** - Exposed House Staff will immediately STOP.
   
   ii. **WASH** - Immediately wash the contaminated skin area well with soap and water. Mucosal areas and eyes should immediately be flushed with water before the employee leaves the unit.

   iii. **NOTIFY** - NOTIFY the supervising attending physician immediately so the trainee can be expeditiously relieved of duty in order to be appropriately evaluated.
iv. REPORT-House Staff employed by NYUWH will **Report Immediately** to the Employee Health Department or if closed to the Emergency Department. The Emergency Department’s sole responsibility is to determine if a significant exposure has occurred and determine if Post Exposure Prophylaxis is indicated. **All House Staff must be referred to EHD the next business day for completion of the exposure evaluation.**

**Rotating Residents and fellows that are not NYUWH employees** should report to the ED immediately for timely evaluation and should notify their primary program for follow up within 36 hours.

v. An on-line **Incident/Accident Report via WinRS** is to be completed by the House Staff member and their supervising attending at the time of the exposure.

Approved by GMEC: 9/10/18