POLICY

High Peaks Hospice (HPH) provides infection control education to staff, contracted providers, patients and family members and other caregivers.

PROCEDURE

1. All employees and contracted staff who have occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens receive training on the epidemiology, symptoms, and transmission of bloodborne pathogen diseases. In addition, the training program covers, at a minimum, the following elements:
   A. a copy and explanation of the OSHA bloodborne pathogen standard;
   B. a general explanation of the epidemiology and symptoms of bloodborne diseases;
   C. an explanation of the hospice’s exposure control plan and how the employee can obtain a copy of it;
   D. an explanation of methods to recognize tasks and other activities that may involve exposure to blood, including what constitutes an exposure incident;
   E. an explanation of the use and limitations of engineering controls, work practices, and personal protective equipment;
   F. an explanation of the types, uses, location, removal, handling, decontamination, and disposal of personal protective equipment;
   G. an explanation of the basis for selection of personal protective equipment;
   H. information on the hepatitis B vaccine, including information on its efficacy, safety, method of administration, and the benefits of being vaccinated
   I. information on the appropriate actions to take and persons to contact in an emergency involving blood;
   J. an explanation of the procedure to follow if an exposure incident occurs, including the method of reporting the incident and the medical follow-up that is made available;
   K. information on the post-exposure evaluation and follow-up that the hospice provides for the employee following an exposure incident.
   L. an explanation of the signs and labels and/or color coding for biohazardous materials used at this hospice; and
   M. an opportunity for interactive questions and answers with the person conducting the training session.
2. Training is provided at no cost to the staff during new staff orientation and annually thereafter according the Personal Policy “Education Programs for Staff HPH124”. Topics to be covered are “Universal Precautions” and circumstances which represent a significant risk for all staff whose job-related tasks involve, or may involve, exposure to significant risk body substances.

3. Additional training is provided when changes such as modification of tasks or procedures or institution of new tasks or procedures affect an employee’s occupational exposure. The additional training may be limited to addressing the new exposures created.

4. Hospice admission materials include written information for patients, family and other caregivers on the prevention of infection and the use of standard precautions.

5. As appropriate, during the course of providing care, hospice staff will provide additional instruction on the use of standard precautions and on what can be done to minimize the risk of spreading infections.

LAST REVIEW DATE:  IDT 01/24/18

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