

GERMS CAN LIVE IN BLOOD.

WHERE IS THE RISK?

Know where germs live to stop spread
and protect patients



- Viruses like HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C can spread in health care through contact with contaminated blood.
- Items that cause a cut or break in someone else's skin, like fingerstick blood specimens, can spread viruses in blood and cause new infections.
- Reusing equipment like glucometers or multi-dose vials is especially risky because germs in the blood can spread from one person to another.
- Viruses in blood can live on surfaces and spread even when blood is not visible.

Germs That Can Live in Blood

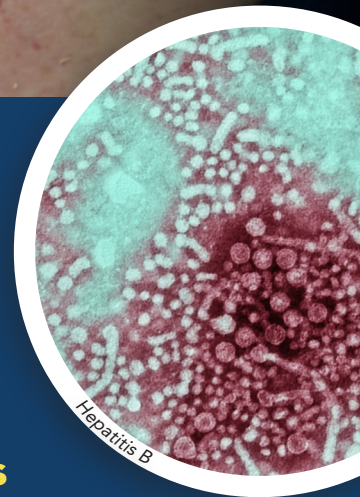
- HIV
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C

Healthcare Tasks Involving Blood

- Putting in an IV
- Performing a fingerstick
- Collecting blood specimens
- Changing wound dressings

Infection Control Actions to Reduce Risk

- Hand hygiene
- Use of personal protective equipment (gloves, gowns, eye protection)
- Safe injections
- Cleaning and disinfection



U.S. Department of
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