

641—11.24 (139A,141A) Exposures in clinical settings.

11.24(1) If a care provider sustains a significant exposure from a patient while rendering health care services or other services within a hospital, clinic, or other health care facility, or while delivering home-health or respite care services, the care provider shall file a report as soon as reasonably possible following the exposure. A care provider who has sustained a significant exposure should file the report with the infection control, occupational health, or other office designated by the facility in which the exposure occurred, or by the facility which has oversight for the delivery of home-health or respite care services.

a. If a general consent form was signed and in effect at the time of the significant exposure and the source patient is an adult, a significant exposure report form shall not be required to document the significant exposure. The health care facility or hospital may use an employee incident report or other similar form for this purpose. The source patient to whom the care provider was exposed is deemed to consent to a test to determine if the patient has a contagious or infectious disease and is deemed to consent to notification of the care provider or the designated representative of the results of the test, upon submission and review of an employee incident report and certification of the significant exposure by an authorized infection preventionist, occupational health professional, or other professional trained in infectious disease control. No further consent from the source patient is required. However, a source patient shall be notified that an exposure has occurred and shall be told which specific tests are being performed. Prior to conducting an HIV-related test, the health care facility or hospital shall provide information to the source patient concerning testing and a means of obtaining additional information regarding HIV infection and risk reduction pursuant to Iowa Code section 141A.6.

b. If no consent form was signed or in effect at the time of the exposure, or if the source patient is a minor, the source patient is deemed to consent to a test to determine if the patient has a contagious or infectious disease and is deemed to consent to notification of the care provider or the designated representative of the results of the test upon submission of a significant exposure report form and certification of the significant exposure by an authorized infection preventionist, occupational health professional, or other professional trained in infectious disease control. Source patients shall be notified that an exposure has occurred and shall be told which specific tests are being performed to determine the presence of contagious or infectious diseases. If the source patient is a minor, the minor shall be informed prior to an HIV-related test that, upon positive confirmation of an HIV-related test result, the minor's legal guardian shall be informed of the positive result, pursuant to Iowa Code section 141A.7(3).

11.24(2) Hospitals, clinics, or other health care facilities, institutions administered by the department of corrections, and jails shall have written policies and procedures for reviewing and certifying significant exposure report forms or other employee incident report forms, testing a source patient, and notifying a care provider who sustained a significant exposure while rendering health care services or other services to a patient during the admission, care, or treatment of the patient at the facility, or while delivering home-health or respite care services.

11.24(3) The hospital, clinic, or other health care facility where exposure occurred or which has oversight for the delivery of home-health or respite care services shall conduct the test. If a general consent form was signed and in effect and the source patient is an adult, the sample and test results shall be identified by name. If the source patient was deemed to consent to a test and to notification of the care provider upon certification of a significant exposure report pursuant to subrule 11.24(1) because no general consent was signed and in effect at the time of the exposure or because the source patient is a minor, the sample and test results shall be identified only by a number.

11.24(4) If a test result is positive, the hospital, clinic, or other health care facility or other person performing the test shall notify the source patient and make any required reports to the department pursuant to Iowa Code sections 139A.3 and 141A.6. The reports to the department shall include the name of the source patient.

11.24(5) If a source patient is diagnosed or confirmed as having a contagious or infectious disease, the hospital, clinic, or other health care facility or other person performing the test shall notify the care provider or the designated representative of the care provider who shall then notify the care provider. If the source patient is a minor and is diagnosed with HIV infection, the hospital, clinic, or other health care facility or other person performing the test shall notify the legal guardian of the minor.

11.24(6) The notification shall advise the care provider of possible exposure to a particular contagious or infectious disease and recommend that the provider seek medical attention. The notification shall be provided as soon as reasonably possible following determination that the source patient has a contagious or infectious disease.

11.24(7) This rule does not preclude a hospital, clinic, other health care facility, or a health care provider from providing notification to a care provider under circumstances in which the hospital's, clinic's, other health care facility's, or health care provider's policy provides for notification of the hospital's, clinic's, other health care facility's, or health care provider's own employees of exposure to a contagious or infectious disease that is not life-threatening if the notice does not reveal a source patient's name, unless the patient consents.

11.24(8) The infection control, occupational health, or other designated office of the facility shall maintain a record of all significant exposure reports it receives and shall retain each report for a period of five years.

11.24(9) The report form "Report of Exposure to HIV or Other Infectious Disease" is a confidential record pursuant to Iowa Code section 141A.9.

11.24(10) The employer of a care provider who sustained a significant exposure shall pay the cost of testing for the source patient and for the testing of the care provider, if the significant exposure was sustained during the course of employment.

11.24(11) A hospital's, clinic's, other health care facility's, or health care provider's duty to notify under these rules is not continuing. It is limited to the diagnosis of a contagious or infectious disease made in the course of admission, care, and treatment following the rendering of health care services or other services to the patient who was the source of the significant exposure.

11.24(12) Notwithstanding subrule 11.24(11), the hospital, clinic, or other health care facility may notify the exposed care provider if, following discharge from or completion of care or treatment by the hospital, clinic, or other health care facility, the patient who was the source of the significant exposure, and for whom a significant exposure report was submitted that did not result in notification of the exposed care provider, wishes to provide information regarding the source patient's contagious or infectious disease status to the exposed care provider.