

Handling Accidental Needlesticks at Your Dental Practice

The Professional Protector Plan for Dentists has partnered with The Hartford's workers' compensation coverage to offer payment for initial testing after an accidental needlestick for the employee *and* the patient. This will 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, immediately follow your office protocol for Universal Precautions and CDC guidelines for management of needlestick or sharps incidents. Then, follow these steps for expeditious claims resolution:

- Report the incident to the Office Manager or Supervisor.
- Contact The Hartford's Loss Connect at 1-800-327-3636 to report the claim.
- Blood tests for both patient and employee should be taken as soon as possible following the incident.
- Ask the patient to get a precautionary blood test; a signed authorization must be obtained.
- If the patient agrees to have a test, they can choose any appropriate medical provider such as their primary doctor, walk-in clinic or medical laboratory to have the test performed. All test results will be sent directly to the practitioner*.
- Blood borne pathogen standards currently require three assays on the blood:
 - HIV
 - Hepatitis B
 - Hepatitis C
- It is recommended that the employee contact The Hartford's Network Referral Unit at 1-800-327-3636 selecting "4" at the prompt, prior to having a blood test and they will provide the name of a network provider.
- The Hartford claims handler will provide your office with the address where bills for the patient's tests should be submitted for reimbursement.

This valuable coverage is provided on every PPP Workers' compensation policy written through The Hartford. For more information, please visit the [agents listing](http://professional.protectorplan.com/agents.html) on the PPP website at <http://professional.protectorplan.com/agents.html> for a PPP State Administrator in your area.

*The Hartford requires the patient's consent to release the test results-(whether "positive" or "negative") without identification of patient. To ensure maximum source patient confidentiality and protection, a protocol will be used which redacts all individually identifiable patient information.

The practitioner's office will pay the initial laboratory charge; The Hartford will fully reimburse you for all incurred laboratory charges.