



International Federation of Perioperative Nurses

## *IFPN Position Statement Right of Protection Against Blood Borne Diseases*

The International Federation of Perioperative Nurses is very concerned about the ever-increasing rise in the number of patients and healthcare professionals that are exposed to the risk of infection by blood borne pathogens, worldwide. Professionals engaged in surgery and exposure prone procedures are particularly at risk and should be appropriately educated and provided with protective equipment of sufficient quality to reduce the risk of potential exposure.

An exposure that might place a healthcare worker at risk for Hepatitis B virus, Hepatitis C virus, or Human Immunodeficiency Virus is defined as percutaneous injury (e.g. a needle stick or cut with a sharp object) or contact of mucous membrane or non-intact skin with blood, tissue or other bodily fluids that are potentially harmful (1).

We believe that education of communities and healthcare professionals worldwide must be encouraged; and that:

- The access to free health services for developing countries must be supported with the delivery of anti-retroviral drugs to patients
- Healthcare professionals have the right to quality personal protective equipment, education and the use thereof, and healthcare as necessary

IFPN urges that:

- Employers to make available whatever protection for its' exposure prone workers, of sufficient quality to reduce risk
- Governments to re-consider all health priorities for the vulnerable and poor enabling free access to anti-retroviral drugs
- Perioperative nurses to become involved in the uplift and education of the communities in which they live and work, especially of their co-workers and surgical team colleagues

---

### **Reference :**

POSITION STATEMENT NUMBER	DATE RELEASED	DATE REVIEWED	REVIEW FREQUENCY	DATE TO REVIEW POLICY
1203	2001	APRIL 2019	Every 4 years	April 2023



International Federation of Perioperative Nurses

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,(CDC),**  
<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/bbp>

Website includes following featured Publications

- [Occupational Health Safety Network \(OHSN\)](#)  
A web-based injury and exposure monitoring system for healthcare facilities.
- [Sharps Safety for Healthcare Settings, including Workbook for Designing, Implementing, and Evaluating a Sharps Injury Prevention Program](#)
- [Information for Employers, Complying with OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens Standard](#)  
DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2009-111 (March 2009)

POSITION STATEMENT NUMBER	DATE RELEASED	DATE REVIEWED	REVIEW FREQUENCY	DATE TO REVIEW POLICY
1203	2001	APRIL 2019	Every 4 years	April 2023