

People with no apparent risk factors

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Clusters of transmission of HIV or hepatitis C through artificial insemination, blood product [1] and through minor surgical procedures [2-6] have occasionally been identified through contact tracing in Australia. The management of these cases requires:

1. Exclusion of sexual partners as sources of infection for the index patient
2. Expert reassessment of the risk history of individuals
3. Pooling of data on cases
4. Detailed review of the investigation
5. Specialised techniques of characterising viral isolates

Given the organisational, medico-legal and social complexity of these investigations, such patients should be referred to specialist services for contact tracing.

Blood-Product and Tissue Recipients

Specialist contact tracing is required because of the legal context and special features of the blood and organ donation system. Contact the central blood bank or tissue bank in the relevant jurisdiction (Australian state or territory, New Zealand).

References

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3. Chenoweth C; *Why are we still isolating Hepatitis B patients? Are guidelines based on evidence or tradition?* ACIPC Conference 2019 http://www.acipconference.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/WED_1030_Chenoweth-Carolyn.pdf
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