

# **The Orthopedist and Blood-borne Pathogens**

## **Advice for Members**

- 1) Be familiar with the COA Position Statement on the Orthopedist and Blood-borne Pathogens, 2010.
- 2) Know your serological status with regard to HIV, HCV, and HBV, before and after exposure to blood or body fluids; track your immune status to HBV. Immunize against HBV if not currently immune. There are effective treatments and potential cures for these conditions.
- 3) Employ universal precautions and use appropriate personal protective equipment for the procedure (face mask with proper coverage, waterproof gown, double gloving (minimum), hands free/neutral sharps zones, safety engineered equipment (syringes, suture needles, ventilation/respiratory protection).
- 4) Activate Post Exposure Prophylaxis appropriate to the nature of an exposure. Follow-up with personal physician.
- 5) Ensure income protection is in place.
- 6) Maintain an optimal level of physical and mental health and wellness.
- 7) Be aware of the laws and policies in your jurisdiction.
- 8) Work with authorities to create policy that supports physicians and patients in the context of BBP.
- 9) Work with primary care providers and specialists caring for infected patients to optimize viral loads prior to elective procedures.
- 10) Maintain knowledge of scientific literature in the area of Blood-Borne Pathogens.