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## **Hepatitis B Statement**

### **Visiting Medical Device & Pharmaceutical Representatives and Service Engineers**

Many NHS Trusts and private healthcare service providers using the LSI National Credentialing Register, request commercial visitors to provide evidence of Hepatitis B inoculations and confirmed immunity. Whilst some visitors may question why this is necessary, as the risk of Hepatitis B in the UK is relatively low, the fact remains that they are entering and working in an environment where the risk exists.

Under Health and Safety Legislation employers have a duty to provide a safe working environment and appropriate health advice from those at risk of infection with Hepatitis B. NHS Trusts and private healthcare service providers require all clinical staff to have Hepatitis B inoculations for their protection. Therefore, we advise the same of any visitors to clinical departments who may be at risk from an accidental needle stick injury or blood splash contamination.

People with Hepatitis B may not experience any symptoms and may be able to fight off the virus without realising they have even had it, and if symptoms do develop, they tend to happen 2 or 3 months after exposure to the Hepatitis virus. Trusts and private healthcare service providers using the LSI National Credentialing Register and who ask for evidence of Hep B inoculations believe that that risk extends to anyone visiting or working in the same environment as their clinical staff.

Employers should undertake a risk assessment and arrange protection for employees, including, where necessary, immunisation against Hepatitis B. If an assessment reveals a risk, the employer has a duty to act and should make arrangements with a suitably qualified medical service to meet the relevant obligations.

As a LSI National Credentialing cardholder, we advise you to contact your employer who will be able to make arrangements with an occupational health provider for the provision of any inoculations which you may require following an appropriate assessment of the risk to which you are exposed.

Full protection from Hepatitis B involves having 3 injections of the Hepatitis B vaccine at recommended intervals. You may then need a further blood test to check that you've responded to the vaccine and can provide evidence of immunity.

We encourage you to provide evidence of each stage of the inoculations so that this information can be recorded on your profile. Until the final blood test is completed, and the evidence of immunity is sent to us, you will still show as non-compliant to Hepatitis B credential requirements for any NHS Trust or healthcare service provider. However, the evidenced stages of inoculations will be recorded under 'Additional Information' so that a Hospital department can see that you are in the stages of achieving Hepatitis B immunity. However, the decision to allow entry will lie solely with the NHS Trust and/or Healthcare service provider.

There may be exceptional circumstances when an individual cannot have Hepatitis B inoculations. If this is the case, we ask for certified written evidence from a GP or other Healthcare Professional outlining the reason for this. This will be noted on a cardholder's profile that although the individual does not have Hepatitis B immunity there is a valid health reason for this.

We will then share this information with all of the relevant NHS Trusts and Healthcare service providers who use the LSI National Credentialing Register, to seek assurance that the individual is exempt from this requirement. However, the decision to allow entry will lie solely with the NHS Trust and/or Healthcare service provider, and the information will be shared with the individual and their employer.

If you have any further questions about the requirements for Hepatitis B inoculations and immunity, then please email [miahelp@medicalindustry.co.uk](mailto:miahelp@medicalindustry.co.uk) or call 01732-920900