

OSCE

Candidate information

It is a typically busy shift in ED. You had been with a drowsy 26 year old female called Linda who was recovering from procedural sedation for a shoulder relocation when a psychiatric patient barged into the room, brandishing a needle the RMO had just been using to take bloods from him.

During the scuffle to control the psychiatric patient, Linda was accidentally stabbed with the needle. The psychiatric patient was sedated successfully and is now under control.

Linda is now fully awake, and you have to inform her of the events and discuss the next steps you will take to manage the situation. You will also answer any questions she has.

Domain	%
Medical expertise	30
Prioritisation and decision making	
Communication	20
Teamwork and collaboration	
Leadership and management	
Health advocacy	
Scholarship and teaching	
Professionalism	50

Needlestick injury

Actor (Linda, patient) information

You have just undergone sedation for a shoulder reduction, which was successful. On waking, you discover a scratch on the back of your hand. The nurse mentions there was “an incident” whilst you were asleep – you were injured with a used needle from a psychiatric patient.

The consultant is to discuss this situation with you (open disclosure), and address any concerns you have.

You are 26 years old, and are usually fit and well. In fact, you are actively trying to get pregnant.

Prompts:

- What is the risk of my contracting Hep B/Hep C/HIV?
- How did this happen?
- What steps will be taken to stop it happening again?
- Will I need tests?
- How long before I can be certain I haven't been infected?

Marking:

- Risk of Hep B/Hep C/HIV transmission by needlestick – 5, 3, 0.3%
- Explains how it happened
- Takes steps to prevent recurrence – education of junior staff on taking blood from agitated patients, etc
- Allows Linda to react and relate her feelings/experiences
- Explains need for blood tests now and in 1 and 6 months
- Apologises for events
- Addresses concerns
- Offers pregnancy test and explains how pregnancy will affect post-exposure prophylaxis

	Mark
Explains risk of Hep B, C, HIV transmission	2
Clearly explains events to patient and apologises	2
Addresses her concerns and answers her questions	2
Explains need for blood tests now, and in 1 and 6 months	1
Offers counselling/support	1
Explains need to take steps to prevent recurrence/investigate event	1
Offers pregnancy test + explains effect on post-exposure prophylaxis	1