

## PART 39

### HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

#### **Application**

**39.1** This Part applies to every workplace that is a health care facility.

#### **Safe work procedures**

**39.2** An employer must

- (a) develop and implement safe work procedures in accordance with sections 39.3 to 39.6;
- (b) train workers in the safe work procedures; and
- (c) ensure that workers comply with the safe work procedures .

#### **Safe work procedures for infectious materials**

**39.3(1)** If a worker at a health care facility may be exposed to infectious materials, an employer must develop and implement safe work procedures to eliminate or, so far as is reasonably practicable, reduce the worker's risk of exposure to infectious materials.

**39.3(2)** The safe work procedures on infectious materials must include the following:

- (a) procedures for storing, handling, using and disposing of infectious materials;
- (b) procedures for identifying workers at the workplace who may be exposed to infectious materials;
- (c) infection control measures at the workplace, such as:
  - (i) vaccination,
  - (ii) engineering controls,
  - (iii) personal protective equipment,
  - (iv) personal hygiene,
  - (v) management of the environment and equipment,

- (vi) patient accommodation,
  - (vii) precautions for blood-borne pathogens, and
  - (viii) infection control practices based on specific modes of transmission that may be used in situations where certain diseases or micro-organisms require extra caution;
- (d) procedures to be followed if any of the following occurs:
- (i) there has been a spill or leak of infectious material,
  - (ii) a worker has been exposed to infectious material,
  - (iii) a worker believes that he or she has been exposed to infectious material;
- (e) procedures to be followed when a worker has been exposed to blood or bodily fluids;
- (f) procedures for cleaning, disinfecting or disposing of clothing, personal protective equipment or other equipment contaminated with an infectious material;
- (g) procedures for investigating and documenting any incident where a worker is exposed to infectious material; and
- (h) procedures for investigating and documenting any occurrence of an occupationally transmitted infection or infectious disease.

**Safe work procedures for waste and laundry**

**39.4(1)** If a worker may be exposed to waste or contaminated laundry, an employer must develop and implement safe work procedures with respect to the handling of waste or contaminated laundry.

**39.4(2)** The safe work procedures on waste and contaminated laundry must include the following:

- (a) measures to ensure that waste or contaminated laundry is
  - (i) segregated at the place where the waste or contaminated laundry is located or produced,

(ii) contained in a clearly identified, secure package or container that holds the contents safely until the waste or contaminated laundry is cleaned, disposed of or decontaminated, and

(iii) cleaned, decontaminated or disposed of in a manner that will not create a risk to the safety or health of a worker or other person;

(b) procedures respecting the use of personal protective equipment appropriate to the risks associated with waste or contaminated laundry at the workplace.

### **Safe work procedures for patient handling**

**39.5(1)** If a worker is required or permitted to lift, hold, turn or transfer a patient, an employer must develop and implement safe work procedures respecting patient handling.

**39.5(2)** The safe work procedures on patient handling must include procedures for assessing whether a patient requires assistance to move.

### **Safe work procedures for lasers**

**39.6(1)** If laser equipment is used in a health care facility, an employer must develop and implement safe work procedures respecting the use of laser equipment.

**39.6(2)** The safe work procedures on lasers must meet the requirements of CSA Standard Z386-01 (R2006), *Laser Safety in Health Care Facilities*.

### **Employer to inform worker and arrange for vaccine**

**39.7** If a worker has been, may have been or may be, exposed to an infectious material, an employer must

(a) provide the worker with

(i) information about any vaccine recommended in the *Canadian Immunization Guide* published under authority of the Minister of Health (Canada), and

(ii) the risks associated with the vaccine; and

(b) with the worker's consent, arrange for the worker to receive the recommended vaccine and pay any associated costs.

### **Sharps containers**

**39.8(1)** An employer must provide readily accessible containers for waste needles and sharps such as syringes, blades, scissors and other items that are

capable of causing a cut or puncture.

**39.8(2)** The containers must be specifically designed for the storage and handling of waste needles or other sharps.

### **Sorting areas to be separate**

**39.9** An employer must ensure that the area of a laundry facility where contaminated laundry is sorted is separated from the clean laundry area by one or more of the following:

- (a) a physical barrier;
- (b) a negative air pressure system in the contaminated laundry area;
- (c) a positive air flow from the clean laundry area through the contaminated laundry area.

### **Moving patients**

**39.10(1)** When a patient has been assessed as requiring assistance to move, the employer must ensure that the current status of the patient and the appropriate techniques to move the patient are clearly identified in writing or by other visual means at or near the location of the patient.

**39.10(2)** When an assessment specifies the use of a mechanical device or the assistance of another worker to move a patient, the employer must ensure that a worker does not move the patient without the use of the device or the assistance of another worker.

### **Laser equipment standards**

**39.11** An employer must ensure that all laser equipment at a health care facility is operated and maintained in accordance with CSA Standard Z386-01 (R2006), *Laser Safety in Health Care Facilities*.

### **Definition: "waste"**

**39.12** In this Part, "**waste**" means any chemical or biological substance that may create a risk to the safety or health of a worker, including

- (a) human anatomical waste;
- (b) animal anatomical waste;
- (c) microbiological laboratory waste;
- (d) blood and body fluid waste; and

(e) used or contaminated needles and sharps such as knives, blades, scissors and other items that are capable of causing a cut or puncture.