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SHEA News

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Postexposure Immune Globulin for Needlestick Injuries

Does your hospital protocol for needlestick injuries include the routine use of immune globulin for the injured party when the needle source cannot be tested expeditiously for evidence of hepatitis and human immunodeficiency virus? Prior to widespread testing for hepatitis C antibody, commercial immune globulin had

the potential to provide passive immunity to hepatitis C. This is no longer the case because for the past few years donors positive for hepatitis C have been rejected from the pool from which immune globulin is made. At the most recent meeting of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immuniza-

tion Practices, data were presented that immune serum globulin has little if any prophylactic value for needlestick injuries. It is unclear how long it will take this information to filter down to the "trenches" where treatment decisions are made. Perhaps we as epidemiologists can facilitate this process.

Job Market

There is an opening for a hospital epidemiologist at the Evanston Hospital Corporation, a major Northwestern University Medical School affiliate. The job description and qualifications are as follows.

I. Primary Function:

To organize and implement all infection control activities for the Evanston Hospital Corporation.

II. Specific duties:

1. To act as a consultant and to provide direction for the Associate Hospital Epidemiologist and Nurse Epidemiologists.

2. To review, analyze, and interpret surveillance data provided by infection control personnel.

3. To institute and direct appropriate epidemiologic investigation and/or control measures as

indicated.

4. May act as Chairperson of the Infection Control Committee.

5. To report any pertinent infection control findings to Administration, the Executive Committee of the Professional Staff, and the Chairperson of the involved department.

III. Qualifications:

1. Must be an Attending Physician and member of the Department of Medicine of the Evanston Hospital Corporation.

2. Must be certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine (Infectious Diseases).

3. Must be willing to accept the duties and responsibilities of the position.

4. Must be knowledgeable in or willing to learn the principles of infection control and epidemiology.

Those interested in finding out more about the position should contact E. Stephen Km-tides, MD, Chairman, Department of Medicine, Evanston Hospital Corporation, 2650 Ridge Ave., Evanston, IL 60201; telephone (708) 570-2510; FAX (708) 570-2905.

Brief items of interest for the SHEA News or Newsletter may be sent to C. Glen Mayhall, MD, SHEA, Newsletter Editor, Division of Infectious Diseases, Route 1092; The Former Shriner's Burns Bldg, Room 2-64B; University of Texas Medical Branch; Galveston, TX 77555-1092; FAX (409) 772-6527. Copy should be typed, double-spaced, and should not exceed five pages.