

AETCOM exercise

Instruct a ward boy to manage a large blood spill.

Answer :

1. Explain the importance of the procedure.
2. Attend immediately. Mark the spill area. Place a wet floor signage.
3. Wear appropriate PPE like gloves and gown.
4. Confine the spill area and wipe immediately with an absorbent towel, which is spread over the spill to solidify the blood. Then it is disposed as an infectious waste into the yellow bag.
5. Clean the area with freshly prepared 1:10 dilution of 5% hypochlorite solution. Allow it to remain wet on the surface for a contact time of 15 minutes.
6. Rinse the area with clean water.
7. Remove PPE. Wash hands thoroughly.

AETCOM exercise

A 25 old male patient with a mild influenza like illness has come to the screening OPD. He had exposure to a confirmed COVID 19 case 5 days back. He is anxious and he wants to get tested and treated. However, he does not want to be quarantined and discriminated, and has a fear of social stigma and losing the job. He is also the only care taker of old parents at home.

Answer :

1. Assure the patient that the test result shall be maintained confidential. Explain to him that it is part of the professional secrecy and shall not be shared with others, including close relatives and employers, without his consent. Tell him that he has the right to privacy, and the right to exercise informed consent in all decisions about his disclosure of the test result except in circumstances when disclosure to another person is required by law or ethical or health considerations.
2. Counsel the patient that he will be identified with an alphanumeric code instead of the name. Details of the test result will be released in the media by the Government authorities with the code and not by his name. A label will be put on the patient house to identify and alert other people.
3. Take informed consent from the patient.

AETCOM exercise

A medical intern comes to the infection control division with a history of NSI 1 hour back. The source patient's sample is collected and tested for HIV, hepatitis B and C. The intern is waiting in the reception of the infection control division to know about the test result of source sample. The test result shows that source patient is reactive to HIV but negative for hepatitis B and C.

Answer :

1. Assure the intern not to panic. Give first dose of PEP for HIV immediately and continue as per NACO guidelines.
2. Disclose the source patient's test results to the intern.
3. Document and record the exposure. Test the intern for BBVs to determine baseline status.
4. Refer the intern to ICTC for HIV testing. Counsellor interacts with the intern in privacy. Pretest counseling is done with the purpose of understanding the risk of HIV infection, to help cope with the stress and to make personal decisions related to HIV/AIDS. Then written informed consent is taken before sample collection and testing. Test report will not have the intern name written, instead will have identification marks like moles, age, gender for identification. Irrespective of the test result, the counselor does the post test counseling and hands over the report directly to the intern. Thus confidentiality regarding the intern identity and HIV infection status is maintained throughout.
5. Follow up HIV testing is done at 6 weeks, 3 months, 6 months. Meanwhile the intern is advised to follow precautions like 1. Not donate blood/organ/semen. 2. Abstinence from sexual intercourse. 3. Seek medical evaluation if any febrile illness develops.

AETCOM exercise

In the midnight, the microbiology laboratory receives 3 specimens [urine, sputum, CSF] from a patient for culture. The technician was already processing a huge load of investigations, therefore he informed the clinical team that these clinical specimens can only be processed on the next day.

Answer :

1. The technician should be made aware of prioritizing the specimen for processing as relevant to the clinical situation.
2. Certain precious specimens like CSF, sterile body fluids, ocular specimens, tissue specimens, suprapubic aspirate, bone specimen should be processed immediately as soon as received, not more than 15 minutes delay. Blood culture bottles should be immediately incubated upon receipt.
3. Ethical and medicolegal issues that involve following delay in processing the precious specimens need to be discussed with the technician.
4. In this clinical situation CSF should be immediately processed for microscopy and culture. Urine and sputum samples can be stored in refrigerator at 4°C and processed later in the morning.

AETCOM exercise

Microbiology laboratory rejects a bunch of specimens because one or the other relevant informations were missing in those specimens such as patient name, age, gender, ward number, hospital ID, sample type, provisional diagnosis, treatment history. The clinical team screams at the laboratory that they could have called the ward or the patient's attendant and verified the details instead of rejecting.

Answer :

1. The laboratory personnel and the clinical team need to be made aware of the judicious application of the sample rejection criteria in the best interest of patient care.
2. Microbiology samples that do not meet the required sample and test request requirements need to be rejected, so as to prevent inaccurate data and to ensure the safety of the patients and laboratory personnel.
3. Reasons for sample rejection may include the following:
 - a. Improperly labelled or unlabelled sample.
 - b. Incomplete specimen related or clinical information on the sample and/or on the requisition.
 - c. Sub optimal sample with any leak or insufficient quantity or improper collection.
 - d. Inappropriate sample for test request.
 - e. Duplicate microbiology samples like multiple sputum or sputum samples received on the same day.
 - f. Sample delayed in transit more than the accepted limit.
 - g. Sample not collected in sterile container.
 - h. Sample not collected in appropriate transport medium.
 - i. Mismatch of patient's name written on sample container with that of name written on requisition form.

