

**PASS Basics Segment #4**

In this segment we will cover:

- Bloodborne Pathogens
- Hepatitis
- Kidney Dialysis

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**Bloodborne Pathogens**

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Bloodborne Pathogens are viruses or other infectious agents carried by the blood. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

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OSHA regulation 1910.1030 deals specifically with Bloodborne Pathogens. Although this regulation was written with medical facilities in mind, it applies to all organizations that have employees who may come in contact with potentially infectious bodily fluids.

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Knowledge of and compliance with the bloodborne pathogen regulation is the best way to protect yourself, your family, employer and passengers from infection.

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Universal Precautions

Treat all blood and body fluids as potentially infectious for HIV, HBV, HCV and other pathogens. It is highly recommended that you wash your hand thoroughly before hand to mouth, nose or eye contact.

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Unbroken skin is a barrier against bloodborne pathogens. However, any break in the skin may provide a pathway for infected blood or other potentially infected materials to enter your body.

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Bio-hazard clean-up kit (Spill Kit)

Each vehicle should be equipped with a biohazard kit. Make it a regular part of your pre-trip inspection.

Knowing how to use the spill kit, which is your primary source of personal protective equipment, is of extreme importance.

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Hepatitis

A general term that refers to inflammation of the liver. Viruses, alcohol or chemicals can cause it.

Cirrhosis of the liver is the term that describes scarring or permanent damage to the liver. Severe or chronic hepatitis can lead to cirrhosis as well as liver cancer.

A damaged liver can lead to terminal illness.

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Hepatitis A (HAV)

A virus spread by infected feces that contaminate food or drinking water and infects approximately 35,000 people in the US each year.

At this time there is no specific treatment for the disease. However, symptoms can and are being treated. Most infected individuals fully recover on their own and some do not develop symptoms

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A vaccine is available and made from the inactive (dead) virus given as a series of two shots one month apart. It provides protection for 20 years or more. Lifelong immunity is a result of having had the disease.

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Hepatitis B (HBV)

A virus that causes serious liver disease and is sometimes fatal. It causes inflammation of the liver and can lead to cirrhosis of the liver and liver cancer.

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It may take anywhere from 45 to 160 days for symptoms to appear and may last several weeks.

HBV is transmitted by contact with blood or the body fluids of an infected person.

HBV can be found in the saliva, urine, semen, and feces of infected persons.

HBV is 50 to 100 times more infectious than HIV and can survive in dried blood up to seven days.

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At this time there is no cure for HBV. However, there is a vaccine that can prevent infection. The vaccine provides protection for 25 years or more and possibly a lifetime.

The vaccine is given in a series of three shots. The first can be given at any time. The second is administered one month after the first. The third shot is given six months after the first.

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If you have been exposed to potentially infectious body fluids, you have two weeks to receive the first shot to prevent infection and disease, providing you receive the full series of shots in the proper time line.

Individuals with a yeast intolerance should consult their doctor prior to immunization.

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REMEMBER:

Should someone get sick or injured on your vehicle

- Remain calm
- Comfort the injured or sick person
- Use universal precautions and put on disposable gloves
- Call 911
- Use a bio-hazard spill kit for cleanup

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Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

Human Immunodeficiency Virus is the virus that leads to AIDS. It is an infectious disease that currently has no cure.

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When HIV develops into AIDS, symptoms become more severe. The body is unable to resist common viruses, or the complications associated with them. Virtually every system of the body is attacked.

Eventually the body is no longer capable of withstanding the various infections and ailments, and organ systems collapse, which ultimately leads to death.

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Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)

The AIDS disease renders the body's immune system unable to resist invasion by several microorganisms that cause serious infection.

The virus usually remains dormant for some time and it may take up to 10 years for symptoms to develop.

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Casual contact in general is not a risk factor for infection. The virus is transmitted by blood. Therefore, any time you provide first aid, or assistance to an injured passenger, be certain to practice universal precautions.

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Special needs of persons with AIDS

- Many individuals with AIDS do not need special attention
- Maintain client confidentiality
- Be careful not to rush these passengers and use the same courtesy and common sense you would with other passengers

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Kidney Dialysis

Your kidneys maintain body fluid levels by excreting fluids when the body has excess and conserving fluids when the body fluid is low. The kidneys assist in regulating blood pressure by excreting excess fluids and a chemical called rennin.

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The kidneys filter the entire blood supply every two minutes in order to perform their major job of removing waste from the blood and discharging it as urine. If, for some reason, one kidney stops functioning, the other can easily perform the job of both.

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Hemodialysis

An artificial process of removing waste and excess fluid from the blood. The blood is removed from the patient to an artificial kidney machine for cleansing through either a shunt or fistula, a surgical implant providing access to the patient's blood supply through an artery and vein. A shunt is outside the body and a fistula is inside the body.

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People who go through dialysis treatment are usually extremely weak and feel ill upon completion of treatment. Many may be carrying up to 15 pounds of excess body fluid prior to treatment. Make absolutely certain that passengers who undergo this treatment receive assistance in moving.

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The passenger:

- May scratch a lot from dry skin caused by blood chemistry
- May have poor vision
- May require assistance standing, walking and entering or exiting your vehicle.
- May bleed from the access point to their blood supply. Should this occur seek medical attention immediately.

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**SEGMENT FOUR TEST**

In order to continue, **10** of the following 10 questions must be answered correctly. If **10** of your answers are not correct, review the information in this segment prior to taking the test a second time.

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