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Global framework for national occupational health programmes for health workers

Key elements of protecting health-care workers

- Identify a responsible person for occupational health at national and workplace level
- Develop a written safety and health policy for health workforce protection
- Allocate sufficient budget to the programme and occupational health professional services, and procure the necessary personal protection supplies.
- Set up or strengthen joint labor-management health and safety committees in each hospital, health care setting.
- Provide (regular) training to health workers and involve them in the identification and control of hazards
- Identify hazards and hazardous working conditions to prevent, control and manage exposure to the hazards by applying hierarchy of interventions (see hazard chart and control measures below).
- Promote health worker knowledge of their own status towards HIV and TB through -employment/pre-placement voluntary screening for HIV and TB and provision of immunization against hepatitis B and other vaccine preventable diseases.
- Provide free access to post exposure prophylaxis for HIV and hepatitis B.
- Promote incident reporting and quality control of services provided.
- Maintain confidential records of work-related exposures, illnesses and injuries. Utilize data systems that track, trend, and communicate hazards, illness, and injuries. Use data to identify policy, practices and products for prevention.
- Provide link to workers' compensation for disability related to work