# Communicable Diseases

Any incidence of a communicable disease amongst staff or Customers must be reported to the service manager immediately.

## Hepatitis B

There has been some literature produced suggesting that in certain care professions the riskof contracting Hepatitis B is greater than in the general public**.**

My Support and Care services Ltd, therefore, advise staff members to seek advice from their own GP with regard to any risk involved and how to minimise this risk.

Appropriate barrier control should be used when dealing with any bodily fluid.

### HIV and AIDS

**AIDS –** Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome is caused by a virus called **HIV –** Human Immunodeficiency Virus. This can damage the body’s defence system so that it can no longer fight of certain infections.

HIV is transmitted in four main ways.

1. Through unprotected sexual intercourse
2. By injecting drug users sharing equipment including needles and syringes.
3. From an infected mother to her unborn baby.
4. From being transfused of infected blood products.

**To minimise risk of HIV and AIDS**

* Anal, vaginal and oral sex can be made safer by using a male or female condom as appropriate.
* Any sharps, needles or syringes should never be shared and should be disposed of in an appropriate rigid container with a sealed lid. (Sharps bin).
* Reputable practitioners must undertake any tattooing, acupuncture or electrolysis.

**Communicable Disease Control.**

Each local authority is charged with producing a strategy to control the spread of communicable disease. GPs will advise whether their input is necessary.

## Staff.

In the event of a staff member becoming afflicted by a communicable disease, they are to inform the company at the earliest opportunity. They will be expected to absent themselves from the workplace to avoid spread of any contagious or infectious disease.

The spread of most infections can be suppressed by the strict adherence to basic hygiene control coupled with barrier (gloves, aprons etc) methods.

**Customer.**

In the event of a Customer becoming afflicted by a communicable disease, staff should take advice from the Customers GP and attempt to avoid the spread of any contagious or infectious disease.

Those placements that have had contact with such a customer may need to be advised.