



OSHA Recordkeeping FAQs

What does OSHA consider “First Aid”?

You do not have to record the following treatments on the OSHA 300 form.

- Using nonprescription medication at nonprescription strength
- Tetanus immunizations
- Cleaning, flushing, or soaking surface wounds
- Wound coverings (Band-Aids, gauze, etc.), butterfly bandages, Steri-Strips (as a wound covering only)
- Hot or cold therapy
- Non-rigid means of support
- Temporary immobilization device used to transport accident victims
- Drilling of fingernail or toenail, draining fluid from blister
- Eye patches
- Removing foreign bodies from eye using irrigation or cotton swab
- Removing splinters or foreign material from areas other than the eye by irrigation, tweezers, cotton swabs or other simple means
- Finger guards
- Massages
- Drinking fluids for relief of heat stress

What is Not First Aid?

The above list is the complete list of First Aid treatments allowed by OSHA.

The below items are not considered first aid, and thus if they are given as a treatment, you will need to record the injury or illness.

- A recommendation by a physician to use an over-the-counter medication at prescription strength.
- Immunizations other than tetanus (Hepatitis B, etc.)
- Sutures, staples, surgical glue, or Steri-Strips used as a wound closure.
- Splints (such as finger, or limb) or other devices with rigid stays designed to immobilize part of the body.
- Physical therapy or chiropractic treatment.

Diagnostic scans and/or evaluation do not automatically make an incident recordable. See our OSHA Recordkeeping Flowchart for more information on the criteria for a recordable injury or illness.

Bloodborne Pathogens

Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens must be recorded:

- All work-related needlesticks and cuts from sharp objects that are contaminated with another person's blood or other potentially infectious material (bodily fluids, tissues, lab cultures, etc.)
- Record splashes or other exposures if it results in a diagnosis of a bloodborne disease or meets the general recording criteria.

Hearing Loss

Work-related Hearing Loss must be recorded in cases where:

- The employee has experienced a Standard Threshold Shift (computed in compliance with OSHA's noise standard – 1910.95) and
- Employee's hearing level is 25dB or more above audiometric zero in the same ears as the STS.

Questions? Contact the Clark Insurance Safety & Risk Consulting team.

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