



SPECIAL PROGRAMME ON AIDS STATEMENT<sup>1</sup>

HIV INFECTION AND HEALTH WORKERS

Reports of HIV infection of a small number of health workers have emphasized the need to adhere to existing guidelines for the prevention of blood borne infections. Such existing guidelines refer to situations in which there is a possibility of exposure to blood or any body fluid regardless of their source.

Available information indicates that health workers are normally at very low occupational risk of HIV infection. This very low risk can be further minimized if existing guidelines for avoiding any blood borne infection are rigorously implemented and strictly enforced.

Routine HIV screening of patients to protect health workers should not be implemented without careful and detailed consideration of all of the HIV screening criteria developed by the World Health Organization.

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<sup>1</sup> Statement from Third Meeting of the WHO Collaborating Centres on AIDS held in Washington, D.C., 6 June 1987.

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