

Bloodborne and Body Fluid Exposure Policy and Procedures

BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS POLICY AND PROCEDURE HBV IMMUNIZATION AND PREVENTION TRAINING

Before engaging in a University programmed activity where exposure to human blood and/or Other Potentially Infectious Materials is probable or possible, each student must present either evidence of HBV immunization or serologic evidence of protective antibody titer against hepatitis B virus disease (HBV) and undergo training to prevent or minimize exposure. Students should check with their health insurers about coverage of, or reimbursement for, HBV Immunization. Students who want to forego such immunization must sign a formal disclaimer statement.

DEFINITIONS

Bloodborne Pathogens- pathogenic microorganisms present in the human blood and other body fluids which can cause disease in humans.

Potentially Infectious Material- include:

1. human body fluids including; semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, amniotic fluid, saliva
2. any body fluid/excretion that is contaminated with blood, any unfixed tissue or organ from a human (living or dead) with the exception of intact skin
3. HIV contaminated cell or tissue and organ cultures, HIV and HBV containing culture medium or other solutions, and blood/organs or other tissues from experimental animals infected with HIV or HBV.

Universal Precautions - Strict adherence to universal precautions is required in all clinical situations. Students are required to use appropriate personal protective equipment whenever contact with blood or other infectious material is expected. Personal protective equipment includes, but is not limited to, gloves, masks, gowns, face shields, and eye protection.

- **WASH** hands before and after all contact with patients. Consider all blood, visibly bloody secretions and fluids and genital secretions from ALL PATIENTS to be infectious
- **GLOVES** are required for all anticipated contact with human blood, body fluids, or mucous membranes. Double glove for surgical procedures.
- **CHANGE GLOVES** and wash your hands after each procedure and before contact with another patient.
- **WEAR MASK OR GOGGLES** when blood or body fluids may splash into your face.
- **WEAR WATERPROOF GOWN** when blood or body fluids may soak through a cloth gown.
- **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE** for properly disposing of any sharps or infectious materials you have used in designated containers.
- **N95 RESPIRATOR MASKS** are required for potential tuberculosis exposures

Definition of blood and body fluids (for bloodborne pathogens):

- Human blood and blood products
- Semen and vaginal secretions
- Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), synovial fluid, peritoneal fluid, pericardial fluid, amniotic fluid
- Saliva in dental procedures (assume blood contamination)
- Any body fluid visibly contaminated with blood
- Any unfixed human tissue or organ
- HIV-containing cell, tissue, or organ cultures or solutions, and blood, organs, or other tissues from experimental animals infected with HIV or hepatitis B virus (HBV)

Notice that other body excretions such as saliva, urine, stool, vomitus, and respiratory secretions are not included on this list (unless visibly contaminated with blood). However, many of these excretions present other infectious hazards.

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PROCEDURE FOR PUNCTURE WOUNDS, CUTS, EXPOSURES TO BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

Initial treatment for all exposures is coordinated through UPMC Employee Health. Initial evaluation, counseling and treatment are provided at Employee Health in Oakland or at the nearest Emergency Room if the exposure occurs after hours or off site. Initial treatment for any exposure is carried out at no charge to the student for any costs over and above insurance coverage. Follow up care is carried out through Student Health or through the student's PCP. All students are required to carry the graduate student insurance coverage offered by the University (or its equivalent), which covers all follow up costs associated with exposures.

Any student who sustains a cut or puncture wound from a needle or other potentially infected instrument, or has another type of exposure to bloodborne pathogens such as an eye splash with potentially infected fluid while performing responsibilities as a medical student must comply with the following procedure;

- 1) **Immediately wash wounds and skin sites** that have been in contact with blood or body fluids with soap and water or flush mucous membranes with water. (No evidence exists that using antiseptics for wound care or expressing fluid by squeezing the wound further reduces the risk of Bloodborne pathogen transmission; however, the use of antiseptics is not contraindicated).
Or After any exposure, the first thing to do under every circumstance is to tend to the exposure to minimize your contact to blood or body fluid. Wash the area with soap and water for five minutes, or if a mucosal exposure, rinse with water or saline for five minutes. Any other first aid should be begun as needed, e.g. direct pressure to the wound. **DO NOT** irrigate the wound with peroxide or bleach- these will cause more local tissue injury and may result in other complications.
- 2) **Immediately inform your preceptor or resident physician.**
- 3) **Call UPMC Employee Health 412-647-3695 as soon as possible** to report the incident and follow the instructions they provide for you. **If the incident occurs between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.** you will be instructed to go to their office at 3708 5th Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15213. If the incident occurs after 4:00 p.m. or on weekends you will be instructed to go to the nearest Emergency Room for care. UPMC Employee health has both a nurse and doctor on call 24/7 for counseling.
- 4) **If the exposure occurs off site** follow procedures 1,2, and **call UPMC Employee Health at 412-647-3695** to report the incident and receive counseling. You will be instructed to report to the nearest Emergency Room.

Follow-Up Care – After the initial counseling from UPMC Employee Health students are expected to receive follow-up care from their Primary Care Physicians or Student Health.

Costs – In the event that a student must report to the nearest Emergency Room they will be expected to provide their health insurance card. Their insurance will be billed for the cost of the visit. Initial treatment for any exposure is carried out at no charge to the student for any costs over and above insurance coverage. Students will be responsible to use their health insurance for any prescribed follow up care.