

Policy to Address Medical Student Exposure to Infectious and Environmental Hazards (including Needlestick Policy and Procedure)

Methods of Prevention: All WVU medical students must complete yearly OSHA training and education regarding needle stick/sharps procedures and prevention of blood borne pathogens. The computer-based learning module is available on line as a course called OSHA and completion is monitored by Student Services. In the event of a needlestick or occupational exposure, students should follow guidelines in place at that learning environment. Specification of the responsibility for treatment and follow-up when a medical student is exposed to an infectious or environmental hazard or other occupational injury are addressed in WVU School of Medicine affiliation agreements with that site.

If a student is stuck with a needle or has other percutaneous exposure to blood or body fluids, the student must first wash the injury site with soap and water. If there is contact with the ocular mucosa, the eye should be flushed. The student must immediately notify the lab/site/rotation supervising faculty or physician of the exposure who will provide immediate local direction/instruction. Other exposure not explicitly stated in this policy, such as to exposure to airborne or environmental hazards/contaminates, must be addressed with the lab, rotation and/or site director immediately. If at any point the student has expressed concerns or potential exposures with a lab/site/rotation faculty or director and they have not or are not being addressed, the student should necessarily contact the dean on call at their home campus as delineated in the Dean on Call policy. If the exposure happens on rotation at a regional campus, see campus-specific instructions below.

Procedures for care and treatment after exposure:

In the event a student suffers an injury, occupational exposure, or experiences a health threatening injury while in a lab or other educational environment at the Health Sciences Center, students must notify either the supervising faculty or course/clerkship director. The student should also immediately notify the dean on call. Students should report to the Emergency Department at JW Ruby Memorial Hospital for care. Students/faculty should contact 911 in the event of a life-threatening or emergent situation.

In the event a student suffers an injury, occupational exposure, or experiences a health threatening injury while on the premises of a clinical rotation or experience, the clinical rotation will provide first aid and other emergency treatment on-site, including, but not limited to, immediate evaluation of risk of infection and appropriate follow-up care in the event of a needle stick injury to or other exposure of students to blood or bodily fluids or airborne contaminants. In the case of suspected or confined exposure to the human immune-deficiency virus (HIV) or hepatitis, such follow-up care shall be consistent with the current guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control ("CDC") and the community's standard of care. This care will be at the student's expense.

The students should report to the Employee Health Office at the hospital where the exposure occurred. They may call ahead of their arrival:

WVUH/Ruby Employee Health: 304-598-4160

If the exposure happens after normal business hours and the appropriate Employee Health Office is closed, the nursing house supervisor should be notified to initiate the appropriate protocol.

Consent will be obtained and blood drawn from the source person and the student to include: Hep B-SAg, HIV-Ab, HepC-Ab, and RPR.

West Virginia Emergency Rule 64 is in effect stating that if the index person refuses and blood is already available in the lab, it may be used without consent for HIV testing. The student will then contact the WVU dean on call at their home campus as delineated in the Dean on Call Policy.

The dean will assist in the notification of the appropriate medical care providers (Employee Health Office, Nursing Supervisor, WVU Infectious Disease Specialist or Emergency Department) that the student is reporting to them for initiation of exposure to Blood Borne Pathogen Protocol and ensure that the plan is working smoothly. The dean on call will make sure that the student is appropriately excused from rotation to complete this workup.

The WVU “Infectious Disease Specialist” may be called and can be reached at the following:

- Local call- dial paging operator 598-4000, ask for ID Faculty on call.
- Long distance- call MARS line 1-800-982-6277, ask for ID Faculty on call.

If the ID specialist is notified they will assess the risk for injury and infection and the need to begin medicine. It is important that this be done quickly so that should medication be indicated, it may begin immediately.

The student will return to their home campus immediately (Morgantown, Charleston, or Eastern) per instructions of the ID specialist or employee health personnel. If the exposure happens off campus, the student will consult with the ID specialist to ascertain the method and procedure for testing the source blood samples which may include the student transporting the samples to the home campus hospital laboratory.

Upon arrival at the appropriate site, the student will then be evaluated by the following:

- WVUH Employee Health M-F 6:30 am- 4:30 pm (no holidays)
- Ruby Emergency Department- if instructed by the dean on call or the Nursing House Supervisor

If the student is evaluated outside of employee health, they must follow up with the appropriate employee health unit before the close of the next business day.

CAMC Employee Health: 304-388-5520

CAMC: Students rotating through a CAMC hospital or clinic should contact the Employee Health Service at that hospital campus of the exposure. They are open Monday through Friday 7 AM to 4 PM. At all other times there is an Employee Health Nurse on call which can be reached via the same numbers:

- General Hospital Division: 388-7591
- Memorial Hospital Division: 388-5520
- Women & Children's Hospital Division: 388-2155

The Health Care providers will obtain the appropriate antiviral medication if indicated, reassess the student for risk factors, immunize if indicated, and treat any wounds.

The student will then contact the WVU dean on call at their home campus as delineated in the Dean on Call Policy.

Eastern; Employee Health

Student should report to the supervising attending of injury or potential injury and remove themselves from patient care to clean and wash the injury site. The student will then contact student services to report the incident (304-596-6312), or the dean on call should the event occur after regular business hours. The student should then contact employee health (Monday-Friday, 7:30am to 4:00pm ext. 237888; all other times, call the nursing supervisor on duty at ext. 231782). The student should report to the ER. The student should register their care under "WVU Student Health Guarantor Account." The dean on call or student services staff will coordinate with employee health and provide further guidance to the student.

Managing the effects of infectious and environmental disease or disability on medical student learning activities: As denoted above, the student services dean on call will work with the student as well as clerkship/rotation directors to excuse and/or rearrange a student's schedule. This will occur on a case-by-case basis. Furthermore, long-term or chronic infections or impacts will be considered and managed as delineated in the policy: Guidelines for Students with a Chronic Infection, Environmental Disease or Disability.

<https://sole.hsc.wvu.edu/Site/2843/Page?InstanceID=434445>

LCME Standard 12: Medical Student Health Services, Personal Counseling, and Financial Aid Services

A medical school provides effective student services to all medical students to assist them in achieving the program's goals for its students. All medical students have the same rights and receive comparable services.

Applicable Element

12.8 Student Exposure Policies/Procedures

A medical school has policies in place that effectively address medical student exposure to infectious and environmental hazards, including the following:

- The education of medical students about methods of prevention
- The procedures for care and treatment after exposure, including a definition of financial responsibility
- The effects of infectious and environmental disease or disability on medical student learning activities

All registered medical students (including visiting students) are informed of these policies before undertaking any educational activities that would place them at risk.

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