

## Environmental Hazards/Infection Control (Needle Stick) Policy

### I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for student occupational exposure to potentially infectious agents and environmental hazards.

### II. Policy Statement

This policy ensures that CNUCOM meets the following LCME accreditation requirement:

*Element 12.8: Student Exposure Policies/Procedures*

1. A medical school has policies in place that effectively address medical student exposure to infectious and environmental hazards, including the following:
  - a) The education of medical students about methods of prevention
  - b) The procedures for care and treatment after exposure, including a definition of financial responsibility
  - c) The effects of infectious and environmental disease or disability on medical student learning activities
2. All registered medical students (including visiting students) are informed of these policies before undertaking any educational activities that would place them at risk.
3. It is the policy of CNUCOM that all students receive education and training regarding methods of prevention of exposure to infectious and environmental hazards. Education begins during the M1 Orientation and includes procedures for care and treatment after exposure as well as financial responsibility. Students receive additional training during their introduction to the M3 year (boot camp). Decisions regarding post exposure management, prophylaxis and follow-up are at the discretion of the individual and his/her care provider.

### III. Scope/Coverage

This policy applies to all students in all courses and clerkships on all campuses.

### IV. Procedure

1. Prevention
  - a. Mandatory universal precautions and blood-borne pathogen training is provided at the M1 student orientation and again at the start of the M3 year, prior to beginning clerkships.
  - b. Students are required to complete OSHA/HIPPA modules prior to the start of the M3 year.

## 2. Post-Exposure Requirements

- a. Immediately wash the area of exposure with soap and water.
- b. Immediately report the incident to instructor, preceptor or supervisory personnel for site specific treatment instructions (as per AAMC Uniform Clinical Training Affiliation Agreement).
- c. Initiate referral to the nearest Emergency Department, Urgent Care Clinic, or
- d. Private Physician for post exposure evaluation and management.
- e. Decisions regarding post-exposure management, post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and follow-up will be at the discretion of the student and their medical provider. CNUCOM recommends a minimum of:
  1. Baseline screening for: HIV, Hepatitis panel (to include antibodies);
  2. Update any needed immunizations.
  3. Follow current CDC recommendations for post-exposure.

Notify clerkship coordinator for assistance in completion of the Needle Stick/Body Fluid Exposure Incident Report.

- f. Appropriate documentation of the incident will be completed at the time the incident occurs. This is to include information of the source patient's past and current medical history. Any possibility of known or suspected infectious disease process is to be documented and includes but is not limited to the following: all types of hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, current epidemic/pandemic infections, and any other infectious disease process.
- g. Follow up with primary care provider or referral provider.

## 3. Financial Responsibility

Students will be treated as an employee for initial management of a needle stick at our clinical affiliated sites in terms of exposure evaluation, prophylaxis, and incident follow-up (on initial lab tests). Students are not eligible for workers' compensation insurance.

Students are financially responsible for the emergency treatment, prophylaxis and all follow-up care resulting from the incident. Students are expected to follow up with their treating physician and follow current CDC guidelines. The Office of Student Affairs is available to guide the student during this time.

## 4. Resources and Tools

- a. Needle Stick/Body Fluid Exposure Incident Report
- b. Needle Stick Exposure Insurance Policy
- c. CDC Resources for Management and Treatment Guidelines for PPE:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/bbp/guidelines.html>
- d. AAMC Uniform Clinical Training Affiliation Agreement

- e. In the event a student is exposed to an infectious or environmental hazard or other occupational injury (i.e. needle stick) while at the Host Agency, the Host Agency, upon notice of such incident from the student, will provide such emergency care as is provided its employees, including, where applicable: examination and evaluation by Host Agency's Emergency Department or other appropriate facility as soon as possible after the injury; emergency medical care immediately following the injury as necessary; initiation of the HBV, Hepatitis C (HCV), and/or HIV protocol as necessary; and HIV counseling and appropriate testing as necessary. In the event that the Host Agency does not have the resources to provide such emergency care, Host Agency will refer such student to the nearest emergency facility."

**REVIEW 1:** SPC: 5/14/20

**APPROVED BY:** SPC 5/14/20

**REVIEW 3:** DAC 12/23/20

**APPROVED BY:** FEC 12/24/20

**APPROVED BY:** PEC 11/20/20

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**REVIEW/REVISION SCHEDULE:** Every 2 years

**INDEXED AS:** Needle stick, exposure, blood borne pathogens