



**THE GEORGE
WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY**

WASHINGTON, DC

Responsible University Official: Associate
Dean for Student Affairs
Responsible Office: SMHS Office of Student Affairs
Most Recent Revision: 09/18/17

POLICY AND PROCEDURES ON MEDICAL STUDENT OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURES

Policy Statement

Medical students may be exposed to infectious agents in the course of their medical education through contact, inhalational, or percutaneous routes. Students are required to complete training in OSHA Standard Precautions at the start of their medical education and at least every 18 months thereafter. Students are required to maintain active health insurance through the University Student Health Insurance or comparable private insurance to cover health needs related to such exposures. The attached procedure details the process through which students should seek evaluation and treatment for occupational exposures. For students who follow these procedures, the school will provide compensation for immediate reasonable out of pocket costs associated with the evaluation and treatment of such exposures (e.g. copayments, deductibles, etc.). Students seeking compensation should provide the Office of Student Affairs with evidence of out of pocket expenses within 30 days of incurring such costs.

Students exposed to occupational risks may sustain disability related to contracted illnesses. All students so affected may be required to make up required educational experiences at the direction of the faculty or the Office of Student Affairs. All students will still be required to meet the School's technical standards throughout their education.

Who Needs to Know This Policy

Medical Students, Residents, Fellows, Faculty and Staff

Policy Contact

SMHS Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Senior Associate Dean for MD Programs

Who Approved This Policy

Associate Deans for Student Affairs and Senior Associate Dean for MD Programs

Executive Committee of the Faculty Assembly

Most Recent Review: 09/18/2017

History/Revision Dates

Previously amended: 07/23/2015

PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW IF YOU HAVE A NEEDLESTICK OR BLOOD/BODY FLUID SPLASH EXPOSURE

Step 1: Decontaminate:

Remove any contaminated clothing, then wash area thoroughly with soap and water; flush wounds/mucous membranes with normal saline. *Immediately notify your resident and/or attending.*

Step 2: Draw Appropriate Laboratory Studies from the Source Patient if Known

A. If you are at the George Washington University Hospital (GWUH), obtain a Source Patient Form from the nursing station. Complete the form and have appropriate source patient labs drawn with informed consent of the patient. Rapid HIV testing results are available immediately and can be taken to the Emergency Department (ED) or GWUH Employee Health Service (EHS) when you are evaluated. If you follow this procedure, source patient labs will automatically be reported to GWUH EHS.

B. If you are at another hospital or facility, follow the protocol of that facility for obtaining source patient labs (check with their Employee Health Service) prior to calling GWUH EHS or coming to the GWUH ED. **At outlying hospitals it is your responsibility to check the results of source patient labs and report them to GWUH EHS.**

Step 3: Seek Treatment and Advice:

A. Regardless of your clinical location, if the exposure occurs between 8 AM and 4:30 PM: Call **George Washington University Hospital Employee Health Service, Suite G1092 in the GWUH** (GWUH EHS, not Medical Faculty Associates Employee Health) at **(202) 715-4275** and identify yourself as a medical student who has had a blood/body fluid exposure. **If Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) for high-risk HIV exposure is necessary, it is best to start within 2 hours, so do not delay.**

B. Regardless of your clinical location, if exposure occurs after 4:30 PM: go to the GWUH ED and identify yourself as a medical student who has had a blood/body fluid exposure. The ED will order baseline labs and assess your need for any treatment (**do not ask other students or residents for advice, contact GWUH EHS or go to the GWUH ED for evaluation**)

C. **EVEN IF YOU RECEIVE CARE IN THE ED, CONTACT GWUH EHS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THEY CAN FOLLOW UP THE SOURCE PATIENT LABS AND MONITOR ANY PEP THAT MIGHT BE NECESSARY.**

Step 4: Billing:

A. Carry your health insurance card at all times.

Your insurance will be billed for services in the GWUH ED.

If you incur additional expenses for initial evaluation or treatment that are NOT covered by your insurance company, pay the charges and bring documentation of your bills and payment to the Office of Student Affairs.

B. YOU ARE NOT AN EMPLOYEE DO NOT COMPLETE WORKERS COMPENSATION CLAIMS.

Guidelines on Tuberculosis:

1. Most incidents of TB exposure occur before the patient is recognized as having TB, and therefore the patient is not in isolation.
2. The key to prevention is early isolation of patients at high risk for having infectious TB.
3. If you are exposed to a patient who is later determined to have active TB, you will have an immediate and follow-up PPD test done in 12 weeks.
4. If you have converted to a positive PPD test, and do not have active tuberculosis, you will be considered for prophylactic therapy with INH.

Reaching Senior Associate Dean for MD Programs Dr. Simons in emergencies:

Office phone: 202-994-9528