



**THE GEORGE  
WASHINGTON  
UNIVERSITY**  
WASHINGTON, DC

Responsible University Official: Associate Dean for Graduate  
Medical Education, DIO  
Responsible Office: SMHS Office of GME  
Most recent revision:

## **POLICY ON RESIDENT OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURES**

### **Policy Statement**

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Residents may be exposed to infectious agents in the course of their patient care and medical education through contact, inhalation, or percutaneous routes. Residents are required to complete training in OSHA Standard Precautions at the start of their residency training and annually thereafter. The attached procedure details the process through which residents should seek evaluation and treatment for occupational exposures and for reporting such exposures to the University Risk Management Office.

### **Who Needs to Know This Policy**

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All Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)-accredited residency and fellowship programs sponsored by the GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS)

### **Policy Contact**

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Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education, DIO

### **Who Approved This Policy**

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Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC)

### **History/Revision Dates**

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Approved by GMEC: April 20, 2015  
Revised and approved by GMEC: January 22, 2017

## **Policy/Procedures**

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In the event of resident exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens, post-exposure evaluation and treatment evaluation will be provided at no cost to the resident.

It is important that you notify **the faculty member supervising you during your shift, your** Program Director and/or Chief Resident as soon as possible **after an exposure** to ensure that you are able to be relieved from patient care duties **as needed to receive appropriate treatment.**

Procedures for reporting also appear on the MedHub home page; click on the “Needle Stick Protocol” button.

### **Procedures to follow if you have a needlestick or blood/body fluid exposure:**

1. In the event of blood/body fluid exposure occurs, stop all activity and perform immediate first aid:
  - Percutaneous or cutaneous: Wash with soap and water.
  - Mucous membrane: Flush with water for 3-5 minutes.
2. Notify the supervisor or charge nurse and send the source patient’s blood to the lab for testing. In order to prevent the patients from being billed do NOT order labs in Cerner. Rapid HIV will be automatically done by the Lab. Employee Health or the Emergency Department will order all other tests.
3. Report in person to GWU Hospital Employee Health, Suite G1029 in the GWU Hospital during normal business hours for evaluation and completion of incident forms.
  - An incident report must be filed **immediately**, using the online report form, which can be found at this site: <http://risk.gwu.edu/incident-reporting>
  - Click on the “webform” link and complete the form.
  - Note there is a section for Webform FAQ’s which can be accessed along the left hand side or from the Incident Reporting dropdown menu.
4. If the exposure occurs when Employee Health is closed:
  - Report to the Emergency Department. Labs will be drawn for HIV, HBsAb & Hep C. If starting PEP therapy, they will also draw a CBC & CMP.
  - **Complete the online incident report immediately:** <http://risk.gwu.edu/incident-reporting>
  - Report in person to GWU Employee Health no later than the next business day for evaluation and follow up. It is not necessary to make an appointment. Bring all Emergency Department documents and source patient information.
5. If the exposure occurs when you are on rotation at another hospital:

- Follow the guidelines for the hospital and report to their Employee Health Office or the Emergency Department as appropriate.
- **Complete the online incident report immediately:**  
<http://risk.gwu.edu/incident-reporting>
- Report in person to GWU Employee Health no later than the next business day for evaluation and follow up. Bring all lab results and source patient documentation.
- If you receive a bill for services, submit the bill to the GME Office immediately

**Frequently Asked questions when completing the online reporting form:**

- ***What is the best internet browser to use?***  
Firefox works best; if you do not have this browser installed on your computer, come to the GME Office to use a GME computer
- ***What should I do for Academic/Admin?***  
Click on the magnifying glass and select the following:
  - Academic from the Academic/Admin options
  - School of Medicine and Health Sciences (under the School/Division options)
  - The Department field will automatically populate when you select the magnifying glass
- ***For reported injuries, what email address should I enter under “Employee’s Email Address” at the end of the webform?***  
Input the email address for Mary Tucker ([mtucker@gwu.edu](mailto:mtucker@gwu.edu))  
Contact Risk Management if you have any other questions ([risk@gwu.edu](mailto:risk@gwu.edu))