



**THE GEORGE
WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY**
WASHINGTON, DC

Responsible University Official:
Associate Dean for Student Affairs
Responsible Office:
Office of Student Affairs, SMHS
Most Recent Revision: 7/2015

POLICY FOR MEDICAL STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE AND IMMUNIZATIONS

Policy Statement

I. Tracking

All students who are under 26 years of age, regardless of where they receive their primary care, are required to maintain a permanent record of certain health maintenance requirements at the University Student Health Service. All students, regardless of age, must also maintain the School of Medicine's health requirements at the George Washington University Hospital Employee Health Office (GWUH EHO). Records submitted to the staff at orientation will be sent directly to the GWUH EHO who will maintain them in strictly confidential files for the remaining years of enrollment at the school. Students will have direct access to their records and will submit any required updates directly to GWUH EHO. GWUH EHO will provide documentation of a student's status to external facilities as required during the student's education and/or at the student's request. If a student is out of compliance with required health maintenance activities he/she may be at risk for delays in school registration or advancement to the next academic year (see specific requirements below).

II. Entrance Requirements

Students who are under 26 years of age must submit the required University form with evidence that they have met the entrance requirements by the time of matriculation to the medical school. All students must submit the Medical School form by the time of matriculation to the medical school. In addition to the immunizations required by the University, the Medical School has the following entrance requirements.

A. Hepatitis B Immunization

Students must provide documentation of a full series of three immunizations against Hepatitis B, serologic evidence of immunity, or sign a consent waiver documenting that they have voluntarily declined to meet this requirement.

B. Tuberculosis Exposure Testing (PPD Skin Testing)

All students must have tuberculosis skin testing performed prior to matriculation unless they have previously had a positive test, in which case documentation of appropriate treatment and/or follow up will be required.

C. Varicella Zoster (Chicken Pox)

At the time of enrollment, students must provide evidence of prior varicella infection, serologic evidence of infection, or documentation of varicella immunization.

III. Additional Requirements

A. Influenza

Students must provide evidence of annual influenza immunization by December 1st (unless a medical contraindication exists. Contraindications must be documented by a health care provider).

B. Tuberculosis Exposure Testing (PPD skin testing)

Students must submit evidence of annual PPD skin testing prior to beginning the clinical curriculum and prior to beginning the final year of medical school enrollment (unless PPD has previously been positive in which case evidence of appropriate treatment and/or follow up will be required).

IV. Health Insurance

All students are required to maintain personal health insurance continuously while enrolled at The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

V. Mental Health Services

Confidential psychiatric consultation can be provided at University Student Health Services. In addition, the University maintains a very extensive Counseling Center that is available to all students. The Counseling Center can provide confidential evaluation and treatment for a broad range of problems. Both University Student Health and the Counseling Center can facilitate external referral for evaluation and treatment if necessary. Finally, the Dean's Office maintains contact information for many community psychiatrists and psychologists who are willing to see medical students.

VI. Disability Insurance

The medical school does not require students to carry disability insurance. However, we strongly urge students to consider a disability policy, particularly if they already have a family or dependents. Disability insurance is made available from private vendors, the American Medical Association, or University vendors. Please see the Student Affairs Deans if you have questions.

Who Needs to Know This Policy

Medical Students

Who Approved This Policy

Office of Student Affairs, SMHS
Executive Committee of the SMHS Faculty Assembly, 7/23/2015

Contacts

Office of Student Affairs

202-994-2202