



**THE GEORGE
WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY**

WASHINGTON, DC

Responsible University Official: Associate
Dean for Student Affairs
Responsible Office: SMHS Office of Student Affairs
Most Recent Revision: 09/14/23

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 throughout MD curriculum.

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 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 course/clerkship director, and guidance from 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: 07/14/2023

History/Revision Dates

Previously amended: 09/18/2017; 07/23/2015, 9/14/2023

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 clean water or normal saline. *Immediately notify your resident and/or attending physician.*

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, including the Medical Faculty Associates (MFA), follow the protocol of that facility for obtaining source patient labs (check with your site director and the facility Employee Health Service). **At outlying hospital or facilities it is your responsibility to follow the protocol of the facility for checking results of source patient labs and report them to GWUH EHS.**

Step 3: Seek Treatment and Advice:

A. George Washington University Hospital

- If you are at the George Washington University Hospital, and 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.**
- If exposure occurs after 4:30 PM: go to the GWUH Emergency Department (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**)

B. Other Facilities

- If an exposure occurs at a facility other than George Washington University Hospital, contact your course/site director and facility EHS, and follow the blood/body fluid protocols of that facility. Additionally, call the **George Washington University Hospital Employee Health Service, Suite G1092 in the GWUH** (GWUH EHS, not Medical Faculty Associates Employee Health), during business hours as soon as possible, at **(202) 715-4275** and identify yourself as a medical student who has had a blood/body fluid exposure. GWUH EHS will advise you on next steps at the given facility.

C. REGARDLESS OF LOCATION WHERE YOU RECEIVE CARE CONTACT GWUH EHS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THEY CAN FOLLOW UP THE SOURCE PATIENT LABS AND MONITOR ANY POST EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN INITIATED.

Step 4: Billing:

A. Carry your health insurance card at all times.

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

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, AND SO YOU DO NOT COMPLETE WORKERS COMPENSATION CLAIMS.