
POLICY NAME: Exposure to Infectious and Environmental Hazards

Responsible Party: Office of Student Affairs

Applies To CMED: Faculty Students Residents Staff Administration

Approval Date: 7/26/2016 Curriculum Committee

Policy Procedure

POLICY:

Students receive education and training regarding methods of prevention of exposure to infectious and environmental hazards prior to beginning any clinical experiences. Instruction will include use of adequate barrier protection (gloves, safety glasses, mask, gown, etc.), sharps precautions, and hand washing/hygiene, as well as other relevant health care worker standards put forth by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Post-exposure evaluation and initiation of prophylaxis therapy, if indicated, will be available to those students who have sustained exposures to blood or body fluids that may be infected with blood borne pathogens.

DEFINITIONS:

Bloodborne Pathogens include, but are not limited to, the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and Hepatitis C virus (HVC).

Exposure: A percutaneous injury (e.g., a needlestick or cut/laceration with a sharp object), contact of mucous membrane or non-intact skin with blood, tissue, or body fluids contaminated with visible blood.

PROCEDURES:

1. Immediately after a needle stick or cut/laceration, clean the exposed area with soap and water while gently forcing it to bleed. Rinse well with water and repeat.

If bodily fluids splash into eyes, mouth, nose, or open cut, flush the affected area with water several times for several minutes.

2. Notify the preceptor, Clerkship Director's office, and charge nurse. Make note of the patient's name and location for reporting and investigation purposes.
3. Proceed immediately to the designated location for evaluation and treatment of the exposure (students receive and are required to carry a reference card with this information at clinical sites). Evaluation and treatment must take priority and occur within 2 hours of incident/exposure.

Designated Locations are as Follows:

- a. In Mt. Pleasant (west campus), evaluation and treatment services will be provided at the University Health Services (989) 774-5693, during normal working hours, 8:00am – 5:00pm. After hours/holidays/weekends, affected students should report to the emergency room at McLaren Central Michigan Hospital, (989) 772-6700.
 - b. Exposure at any Covenant Medical Center, contact employee health immediately, (989)583-4285. After hours (and exposure at non-Covenant/non-St Mary's facilities), report to the emergency room at Covenant Healthcare. (Be sure to provide your insurance)
 - c. Affected students at St. Mary's of Michigan Hospital (east campus) or their affiliated clinics/departments report to the Associate Health Dept., (989) 907-8244. After hours/holidays/weekends, affected students should contact pager 929-4020 and go to the emergency room at St. Mary's of Michigan, unless otherwise instructed.
 - d. As additional hospitals and clinics become formal training sites for CMED, affected students will receive details about these services as part of an orientation packet specific to assigned hospitals/clinics. Affected students should report to the designated ER of the assigned site after hours/holidays/weekends, unless otherwise instructed.
4. At the designated sites, affected students will receive exposure assessment (including baseline serologic studies (for example, HBsAg, HBsAb, Anti-Hep C and, with consent, HIV Ab), source testing, and initial treatment (if required). Risk assessment using institutional protocols based on national guidelines for health care workers will be utilized. If indicated, anti-retroviral post-exposure prophylaxis and Hepatitis B immune globulin should be administered as soon as possible.

5. Students will fill out an exposure/incident report at the site where they are evaluated and treated.
6. If students have been injured in some way during clinical activities without exposure, they must also be assessed, have follow through for care if indicated, fill out an incident report, and report the event to the Assistant Dean/Student Affairs.

Post Exposure Follow Up:

1. Following an exposure, affected students must contact the Office of Student Affairs within 24 hours at (989) 746-7508. A CMU Accidental Personal Injury Report must be completed by a Student Affairs representative, and is filed in the office for tracking, with a copy sent to CMU Risk Management. A completed incident report where care was initiated is confirmed at this time by the Office of Student Affairs.
2. The office tracks all such incidents experienced by CMED students at affiliate teaching institutions or at other nonaffiliated teaching sites (such as during off-site electives).

It is expected that affected students will cooperate with the evaluation, treatment and follow up recommendations made at the time of their exposure assessment. It is the affected student's responsibility to follow up as directed by the occupational health office, ER, or clinic where care was initiated, in terms of future testing and/or treatment. A student who contracts a bloodborne infection while in school, after seeking appropriate care, is required to notify the Office of Student Affairs of his/her status. Notifications will be kept strictly confidential. If the student has not seen an Infectious Disease physician with experience in treating and counseling health care workers yet as part of the recommendations directed by the initial care team, he/she will be advised to do so. The specialist's guidance will assist in determining appropriate modification recommendations in the clinical environment.

Procedures and Finances for Care and Treatment After Exposure

All CMED students are required to have health insurance. The health insurance policy offered by CMU includes coverage for needlestick injuries. Expenses incurred for testing, counseling, and post-exposure prophylaxis will be billed to the student's health insurance carrier. Any remaining expenses, including co-pays or co-insurance, will be paid by CMED. Students must bring copies of any bills received to the Office of Student Affairs.

The College of Medicine and CMU Partners reserve the right to make exceptions, modify or eliminate this policy and or its content. This document supersedes all previous policies, procedures or guidelines relative to this subject.

History	
1/20/2016	Initial approval by Curriculum Committee
7/26/2016	Reviewed approved by Curriculum Committee
5/16/2018	Edited by Michele Reynolds with Office of Student Affairs