

Augusta University

Policy Library

Education and Exposure Policy for Health Professional Students

Policy Manager: Dean of Students

POLICY STATEMENT

This policy serves to protect health profession students from Bloodborne Pathogen Infection during clinical and research activities at Augusta University. This policy is applicable at the time of matriculation for all health profession students of the Medical College of Georgia, Dental College of Georgia, College of Allied Health Sciences, College of Nursing, The Graduate School, and Affiliated Institutes who will attend any campus of Augusta University.

This policy establishes education and treatment procedures for students prior to possible exposure to Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, HIV, and other pathogenic organisms during the course of their education and training.

This policy will be reviewed annually by a committee with representation from the Medical College of Georgia, Dental College of Georgia, College of Allied Health Sciences, College of Nursing, The Graduate School, and Student Health Services.

AFFECTED STAKEHOLDERS

Indicate all entities and persons within the Enterprise that are affected by this policy:

- Alumni Faculty Graduate Students Health Professional Students
 Staff Undergraduate Students Vendors/Contractors Visitors
 Other: All health professional students at the time of matriculation at the following colleges: Medical College of Georgia, Dental College of Georgia, College of Allied Health Sciences, College of Nursing, and the Graduate School.

DEFINITIONS

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PROCESS & PROCEDURES

All accepted students, prior to starting patient care or research involving specimens or procedures of human body fluids, will be offered Immunization against Hepatitis B using currently accepted vaccine protocol to maximize likelihood of protective immunity. Should a Hepatitis C or HIV vaccine be approved by the FDA for use by health care personnel, these vaccines will be offered at that time. Prior to potential exposure to infected patients or procedures, all students will have documented training in Universal Precautions, an infection control procedure designed to limit likelihood of infection, as well as what steps should be taken if suspected contamination occurs. Resources and the necessary forms to be completed after possible exposure becomes known may be found at the following web address: <http://www.augusta.edu/shs/blood-and-biohazard.php>.

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Executive Sponsor: VP, Enrollment and Student Affairs

Next Review: 3/2028

- 1) **Education and Training of Universal Precautions:** All students involved in patient care or research involving human body fluids will successfully complete one hour of education and training in Universal Precautions of infection control prior to initiation of patient care or activities involving human body fluids. Certified personnel capable of such training will provide it for each school, college, institute, and campus.
- 2) **Advice on Risks and Limitations:** During orientation to each local assignment, supervisors are to brief students on likely individual risks in patient care and research, means to minimize risk, and what immediate actions are to be done for injuries, spills, splashes, or other possible exposure.
- 3) **Exposures:** Students will be educated on the processes, procedures, and resources for handling possible exposures. Such actions include informing supervisors and reporting immediately to Student Health Services/ local emergency department for possible anti-microbial prophylaxis. Student Health providers discuss the exposure and treatment options with the student. If the student becomes infected, s/he receives appropriate counseling based on the current standard of care, as documented in such publications as the American Guidelines for Management of Healthcare Workers Who Are Infected with Hepatitis B Virus, Hepatitis C Virus, and/or Human Immunodeficiency Virus published by the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology (SHEA).
- 4) **Immunizations:** All health professions students must comply with state law, Augusta University policy, and where appropriate, health system and residence hall requirements. These requirements may include but are not limited to evidence of immunization and/or proof of immunity with serological titer against Mumps, Rubella, Rubeola, Polio, Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Varicella, and Hepatitis B. All students not able to produce documented prior completion of Hepatitis B immunization series will be offered Hepatitis B immunization protocol. Immunization records are maintained in Student Health Services.
- 5) **Documentation:** Records will be maintained of student completion of Hepatitis B immunization in Student Health, the same location as other required immunizations (for example, MMR). Individual colleges maintain documentation of successful education and training.
- 6) **Compliance Monitoring and Quality Improvement:** Exposure rates will be tracked and reviewed annually by Student Health and disseminated to each school, college, institute, or campus. Policy and procedures will be amended based on any new medical information or guidelines promulgated by reputed national authority.

REFERENCES & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

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RELATED POLICIES

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APPROVED BY:

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Augusta University

Date: 3/13/2023

President, Augusta University

Date:3/13/2023