



Policies and Procedures Manual:	Originating Department/ Committee:
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Date Originated: 1983	Last Revision: Sep 20, 2017
Approved by: FON Council	Approval Date: Oct 4, 2017

Purpose:

This policy aims to establish procedures to help identify, prevent, and control the risk of transmission of blood borne pathogens, and assure effective follow up treatment or referral for treatment after exposure.

Policy:

All students and faculty in the faculty of Nursing who anticipate occupational exposure to blood borne pathogens shall be afforded all necessary protection to reduce the likelihood of exposure to, transmission of, and possible infection with HBV, HCV, HIV, or any other blood borne diseases

Procedure:

1. EDUCATION:

- a. Faculty need to be educated according to current Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines.
- b. The Administration/Faculty in the Faculty of Nursing are responsible for disseminating information about blood borne pathogens and their transmission, and educating students about the hazards involved when in contact.
- c. The curriculum must reflect content related to blood borne pathogens and the practice of "transmission based precautions".

2. PREVENTION OF TRANSMISSION:

- a. Students will receive printed and oral information and instructions on transmission based precautions for body fluids and blood borne infections or to infectious laboratory materials in accordance with applicable Centers for Disease prevention and Control (CDC) guidelines, as a prerequisite for clinical rotations.
- b. Laboratory safety guidelines must be employed for the handling of blood and body fluids of all persons in teaching laboratories.
- c. Laboratory courses where exposure to blood is possible must use disposable supplies; this supplies must not be re-used or shared.
- d. Disposal of used supplies shall be in accordance with the University policy.

3. STRICT ADHERENCE TO TRANSMISSION BASED PRECAUTIONS:

- a. The Guidelines (transmission based precautions) established by the CDC, the United States Public Health Services, must be strictly adhered to for the protection of students, faculty, and patients.

4. HEPATITIS B (HBV) VACCINATION:

- a. All faculty members and students are required to be vaccinated with HBV unless they have documented evidence of immunity to the disease, or are medically at risk from the vaccine, or have signed an informed consent waiver.
- b. Faculty who do not have serologic evidence of their immunity to HBV from vaccination or previous exposure should know their Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) status, and if positive their hepatitis B antibody status.
- c. All the Nursing students must present evidence of a completed series of HBV immunization within six months of admission to the programs or prior to contact with patients unless they have documented evidence of immunity to the disease, or are medically at risk from the vaccine, or have signed an informed consent waiver.



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- d. If students do not have evidence of immunity, placement for clinical practice could be affected.
- e. Faculty/students who refuse to obtain immunization must sign the appropriate waiver stating that they have received information regarding the seriousness of hepatitis B infection and the recommended vaccination options, but have decided not to obtain the HBV.
- f. The Faculty of Nursing will not be responsible for student costs of the HBV. The Faculty of Nursing may cover the costs for students who demonstrate that such an expense would create undue financial hardship.

5. PARTICIPATION IN CARE OF INFECTED PATIENTS:

- a. Since nurses provide "services with respect for human dignity and the uniqueness of the client, irrespective of social and economic status, personal attributes, or the nature of health problems" (ANA Code of ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements, 2001), faculty or students may not refuse to participate in the care of those patients infected with potential blood borne pathogens or any other type of patient.
- b. Under unusual circumstances (such as, the faculty or student having open lesions or weeping dermatitis) this ethical mandate may be reconsidered; health care workers in such circumstances should refrain from all direct patient care and from handling equipment until the condition resolves.
- c. Faculty must provide students with education and counseling to reduce student apprehension about caring for individuals who are at risk for or who are infected with blood borne pathogens. The moral obligation of nurses to care for the sick, regardless of the illness, needs to be emphasized.
- d. If students refuse to care for individuals who are at risk for or who are infected with blood borne pathogens, career counseling about pursuing a nursing career needs to be offered.

Definitions:

Blood borne pathogens are infectious microorganisms in human blood that can cause disease in humans. (OSHA; <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/bloodbornepathogens/>).

These **pathogens** include, but are not limited to, hepatitis B virus (HBV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Documentation Required:

Incident report
 Medical follow up
 Immunization record

Approval:

FON Council

References:

CDC
 OSHA
 JUST policies