

## University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria

### Procedures for Occupational Exposures to Potentially Infectious Blood/Body Fluids

Exposure is defined as “a possible transfer of infectious material from a source to a non-infected person via a percutaneous inoculation, mucous membrane splash or contact with non-intact skin.” Exposures to blood or body fluids that occur as a result of needle sticks, cuts, splashes, or sprays that occur on assignment (e.g. Immersion or M3/M4 clerkships) could result in transmission of blood-borne diseases (such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, or HIV). Care should be taken to ensure your safety and the safety of your patients. In the event of an exposure use the following procedure:

1. **Wash** site immediately and thoroughly (at least 10 minutes) with soap and water to remove any potentially infectious fluid and tissue. Induce free bleeding in percutaneous exposure (needle stick, sharp object). Flush exposed mucous membranes with water for 10 minutes.
2. **Tell** a nurse or other supervising professional at the scene about the exposure. Make note of the time, location, circumstances, and identity of source (patient).
3. **Complete a clinical evaluation**, within a two hour window, at the appropriate location for the clinical training site *at which the incident occurred*. For the initial evaluation, expect to follow the same protocol as an employee of the site.
  - **OSF St. Francis Medical Center:** M-F 6:30 am – 5 pm: Employee Health on 1<sup>st</sup> Floor of Gerlach Bldg. All other times: Emergency Department
  - **UnityPoint-Methodist Medical Center:** Emergency Department.
  - **Other sites:** follow protocol for employees.
4. The clinical evaluation should include drawing of blood samples from both the patient (source) and the student. Possible therapies may include: antibiotics, Hepatitis B vaccine, Hepatitis B Immune Globulin, or antiretroviral therapy.
5. **Fill out a report** form, provided by the site, for employee/visitor injury. Each site will have its own forms. *TIP:* IDENTIFY YOURSELF ON THE FORM AS A UICOM-P MEDICAL STUDENT, even if there is not a specific place to check this. Give your full name and address.
6. **Direct** the hospital where to send lab results for follow-up;
  - If you are covered by CampusCare: UnityPoint-Methodist Family Medicine Clinic (FMC)
  - If you have other Insurance: FMC or physician of choice, as authorized by your coverage.
  - *TIP:* DO NOT allow the hospital to choose where the follow-up occurs unless you are *certain* that you and/or your insurer are prepared to pay for it!
7. **Follow up within a week** with your primary care provider selected in Step 6. Confirm that all blood tests have been reviewed; appropriate treatment is in place; and arrangements have been made for any additional diagnostic testing needed. *TIP:* Notify care provider in advance that the labs have been referred.

8. **Clarify PAYMENT arrangements.** Although UICOMP's training affiliates may sometimes cover the cost of initial evaluation at the training site, per our affiliation agreements, the cost of the evaluation is ultimately the student's responsibility. Therefore, be prepared to
  - Present proof of CampusCare or other insurance and follow the insurer's procedures for emergency coverage.
  - CampusCare should be notified by the student when the incident occurs in a facility that is not in CampusCare's provider network. *TIP:* Special authorization may be required to avoid the 70/30 payment structure for out-of-network services.
  - Be prepared to pay the customary co-pay or other patient fees not covered by your insurer
  - Contact Student Affairs immediately regarding any actual or potential financial hardship situations created by blood exposure follow up care.
  
9. **Contact Dr. Linda Rowe, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, 309-671-8410 or [lpr@uic.edu](mailto:lpr@uic.edu) to report the incident.**

## **CONTACTS for OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE**

**OSF St. Francis Medical Center:** notify the nurse/ manager on the unit. You will be directed to either Employee Health or to the Emergency Department, depending upon the time of day.  
OSF Employee Health: 309-655-2429 or 800-GO-ASK-OSF

**UnityPoint - Methodist Medical Center:** notify the nurse/manager on the unit and go to the Emergency Department. Employee Health: 309-672-4894; ED Manager: 309-672-4109

**Proctor Hospital:** notify the nurse/manager on the unit. In the Daytime, go to Employee Health/Medical Evaluator. After hours, go to Employee Health/Emergency Room or FirstCare.

**UnityPoint-Methodist Family Medicine Clinic/Student Health (follow-up care):** 309-672-4977

**CampusCare:** 312-996-4915

**UICOM-P Student Affairs:** 309-671-8410

**After-Hours Advice:** If you need immediate assistance from a dean after-hours, call 309-671-3000 (front desk) and ask to be put in contact with Dean Rowe. If Dr. Rowe is not available, state the nature of your emergency so that another dean may be contacted to assist you.