

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 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 a protocol that is virtually the same as that for an employee of the site.
 - **OSF St. Francis Medical Center:** M-F 6:30 am – 5 pm: Employee Health on 1st Floor of Gerlach Bldg. All other times: Emergency Department
 - **Methodist Medical Center of Illinois:** 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 as well as counseling on risks and options. Prophylaxis should be offered if and as indicated. 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. **IDENTIFY YOURSELF ON THE FORM AS A UICOMP MEDICAL STUDENT**, even if there is not a specific place to check this. Give your full name and contact information.
6. **Direct** the hospital where to send lab results for follow-up;
 - If you are covered by CampusCare: Methodist Family Medical Center (FMC).
 - If you have other Insurance: FMC or physician of choice, as authorized by your coverage.
 - 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 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. Notify care provider in advance that the labs have been referred.
8. **Understand referral and payment** arrangements. OSF, Methodist, and most other UICOMP training affiliates cover the cost of initial evaluation, but do *not* cover follow-up care. “Away” rotation sites vary widely in how they choose to handle student incidents – know before you go.
 - If the site of the incident is *not* prepared to cover the initial evaluation, present proof of CampusCare or other insurance and follow the insurer’s procedures for emergency coverage.
 - Some smaller clinics or rural sites handle follow up care for free, but generally you must direct that your labs and results be sent to a provider that *your* insurer will cover.
 - Be prepared to pay customary co-pays or other fees not covered by your insurer.

9. **Report** the incident to UICOMP Student Affairs by phone or email. Complete the injury form located on the Student Policies Page and send to Student Affairs. Contact the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, 309-671-8410 or epd@uic.edu at any time in the process to ask questions.

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

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

Methodist Family Medical Center/Student Health (follow-up care): 309-672-4977

CampusCare: 312-996-4915

UICOMP Student Affairs: 309-671-8410 or 309-671-8411

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 Doherty. If Dr. Doherty is not available, state the nature of your emergency so that another dean may be contacted to assist you.