

Guidelines to Prevent Transmission of Blood Borne Pathogens

Understanding the following guidelines is a prerequisite to starting Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences.

Because all patients and body substance specimens from patients are potentially infectious, the following are suggested general procedures which should be followed:

The pharmacy student should routinely use barrier precautions to prevent exposure of his or her own skin and mucous membranes when contact with any blood or body substance from any patient can be anticipated.

1. Gloves should be worn when hands are likely to come in contact with blood or any body substance. This includes wearing gloves for performing venipuncture and for touching blood, any body substance, mucous membranes or non-intact skin of all patients. Gloves should be changed after contact with each patient and hands should be washed immediately after the gloves are removed.
2. Gowns, laboratory coats or aprons should be worn when clothing may become soiled by any body substance.
3. Masks and protective eye wear should be worn for any procedures or attendance at any procedures likely to generate a splatter or splash of any body substance into the eyes or mouth.
4. To prevent needlestick injuries, needles should not be recapped, bent or broken in any manner. Additionally, they should not be removed from disposable syringes. They should be placed in puncture-resistant containers for proper disposal.

It is the responsibility of each site to provide and each student to obtain orientation and training pertaining to procedures, practices and protective measures specific to the site. This training should be obtained prior to performing any tasks involving potential exposure to blood, body fluids and tissues.

Students **MUST** have their own hospitalization insurance or Boynton Health Services Clinic personal coverage.

Protocol for Exposure to Blood Borne Pathogens During Education Experiences

1. Perform basic first aid immediately as instructed in the student orientation prior to advanced practice experiences. Follow these instructions:
 - Clean the wound, skin or mucous membrane immediately with soap and running water. Allow blood to flow freely from the wound. Do not attempt to squeeze or “milk” blood from the wound.
 - If exposure is to the eyes, flush eyes with water or normal saline solution for several minutes.

2. All students participating in educational advanced practice experiences in the State of Minnesota will contact the Boynton Health Service (BHS) 24-Hour Triage Nurse immediately by calling 612-625-7900 and notify his/her preceptor at the site. The student will identify him/herself as having a blood-borne pathogen exposure.

- The Boynton Health Service (BHS) Triage Nurse will take the student through a rapid assessment about risk status and direct the student where to seek treatment.
- Students will be expected to contact BHS immediately because of the need for rapid assessment about prophylactic medications, rapid prescribing of medications, if indicated, and the limited capacity of a student to assess his/her own injury.
- With assistance of the BHS 24-Hour Triage Nurse and the student's preceptor or other designated person, the student will attempt to secure pertinent information about the source patient for discussion during the risk assessment.

3. Standard employee procedures of institution where exposure occurs will be used for initial assessment of the source patient. (permission form, what blood assays to draw, etc.) The standard procedures typically include the following information:

- When: Approximate time of exposure
- Where: Location of exposure (e.g., hospital, office, clinic, etc.)
- What: Source of the exposure (e.g., blood, contaminated instrument, etc.)
- How and How Long: Skin, mucous membrane, percutaneous; and how long (e.g. seconds/minutes/hours) exposure time
- Type of device
- Status of the patient: negative, positive, unknown HIV/Hepatitis B/Hepatitis C status

- a. Whether or not patient is at risk for HIV, Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C infection
- b. Multiple blood transfusions (1978-1985)
- c. IV Drug User
- d. Multiple sexual partners, homosexual activity
- e. Known HIV positive/and/or have symptoms of AIDS
- f. Significant blood or body fluid exposure

4. If the student is assessed at high risk for HIV infection following rapid assessment, the student should seek prophylactic medication treatment immediately. HIV post-exposure prophylactic medication should ideally be instituted (i.e. first dose swallowed) within two hours. During the evaluation, the BHS Triage Nurse will assist students in selecting the most appropriate location for initial treatment.

5. All students (high risk and low risk) with an exposure should complete a follow-up assessment at Boynton Health Services within 72 hours of exposure. This appointment can be scheduled during the initial assessment with the BHS Triage Nurse 612-625-7900. The costs of prophylactic medications and follow-up treatment will be covered at Boynton Health Services by student fees. Off-campus treatment will be the student's personal responsibility or covered by the student's insurance coverage.

6. All students will complete a Boynton Health Service Reportable Educational Exposure Form and Occupational Exposure Form and mail or carry these completed forms to BHS for their scheduled follow-up appointment. These forms will be available from the BHS Triage Nurse. Students must know that blood-borne pathogen exposure and the possible subsequent treatment are treated as an OSHA incident, requiring documentation in a separate restricted access medical record. Confidentiality is assured.

7. In accordance with the Needlestick Safety Law, the exposed student will receive prevention discussions, counseling and follow-up on the exposure.