

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY HEALTH CARE COLLEGES  
POLICY ON EDUCATIONAL EXPOSURE TO BLOOD BORNE PATHOGENS

I. Purpose and Definition

The purpose of this policy is to delineate the management of incidents of exposure to blood borne pathogens including hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that involve University of Kentucky health care colleges students, including visiting students, during the time when they are in an educational setting.

An educational exposure to blood-borne pathogens is defined as a percutaneous injury (e.g. a needlestick or cut with a sharp object), contact with mucous membranes or contact with skin (especially when the exposed skin is chapped, abraded, or afflicted with dermatitis, or the contact is prolonged or involving an extensive area) with blood, tissues, or other bodily fluids to which universal precautions apply, which occurs in the educational setting.

A student is someone enrolled in an academic or training program at the University of Kentucky.

Lended student/visiting student/visiting resident is someone registered at another university, but on an official affiliation agreement-approved clinical rotation at the University of Kentucky.

A source patient is the patient from whom the exposure originates.

II. Prevention

All University of Kentucky health professions students will receive yearly information about universal precautions, blood borne pathogens, and the student directives portion of this policy. This information will be appropriate to the students' level of training and area of training. This training will be provided via the associate dean in the various colleges, or another designee, who has responsibilities for the education program.

III. Protocol for Managing Educational Exposure to Blood Borne Pathogens

**A. General**

Effective management of educational exposure to blood borne pathogens requires coordination among multiple units of the Medical Center. It requires training in prevention of injury and in the management of injuries when they occur.

**B. Educational Exposure to Blood Borne Pathogens - Students in Educational Experiences within the Commonwealth of Kentucky**

1. All students with an exposure will be directed to perform basic first aid immediately. These first aid directives will be the same as those provided to employees with occupational injuries and will be developed by University Health Service. All students should have appropriate initial laboratory tests per current CDC guidelines performed as soon as they can get an appointment but **no later than the next business day**.
2. All students on an educational rotation in the Commonwealth of Kentucky will be directed to contact **immediately** the University Health Service in the event of an educational exposure. (Students on educational rotation outside the Commonwealth will be handled as delineated below in Section C.) Students will be directed to contact the on-call University Health Service physician if the University Health Service is closed. The reason that students will be expected to contact University Health Service immediately is because of the need for rapid assessment about prophylactic medications, the completion of appropriate initial laboratory tests, the rapid prescribing of medications if indicated, and the limited capacity of a student to assess his/her own injury.

Students will cooperate with the University Health Service in obtaining lab results of the "source patient" including, but not limited to, executing appropriate consents and authorizations. The University Health Service shall request the facility providing the educational experience to assist obtaining the status of the source patient pursuant to KRS 214.625.

Students will provide, to University Health Service personnel, the following information, if available, concerning the exposure:

- Approximate time of exposure

- Location of exposure (e.g., hospital, office, etc.)
- Source of the exposure (e.g., blood, contaminated instrument, etc.)
- Type of exposure (e.g. skin, mucous membrane percutaneous)
- Length of exposure (e.g., seconds/minutes/hours)
- Status of the source patient: Negative, Positive, or Unknown HIV, HBV, and HCV Status
- Whether or not patient is at risk for HIV, HBV or HCV infection because of:
  - Multiple Blood Transfusions 1978-1985
  - IV Drug User
  - Multiple hetero- or homosexual partners
  - Known HIV positive and/or have symptoms of AIDS, HBV or HCV
  - Significant blood or bodily fluid exposure has occurred.

3. If the University Health Service physician believes that prophylactic medication is indicated, the physician will prescribe it. The physician will prescribe by telephone a supply of the medication sufficient to last until the HIV status of the source patient is known to the appropriate dispensing pharmacy. The dispensing pharmacy will vary depending upon the location of the student. University Health Service will make the list of pharmacies available to personnel who may prescribe the medications. The University Health Service will prescribe the same prophylactic medications for students as those prescribed for employees with exposure to blood borne pathogens.

For students on educational rotations at Chandler Medical Center or within 50 miles of the Chandler Medical Center, the baseline laboratory test will be completed at the University Health Service, and the prescribing pharmacy will be either the UK Hospital or Kentucky Clinic pharmacy. If a decision to start PEP therapy is made by the on-call physician, the student's personal health insurance will be utilized as the primary insurance source. If the student does not have personal health insurance, or if the student's personal health insurance refuses to pay for the PEP therapy, the Office of the Provost will cover the costs associated with up to 28 days of PEP therapy.

For students on educational rotations in the Commonwealth of Kentucky more than 50 miles from the Chandler Medical Center, alternate laboratory testing sites and pharmacy sites will be identified. This identification will be by county, will be furnished to University Health Service personnel, and will be told to the student at their Orientation to the educational activity. In addition, course directors will know the locations of the pharmacies and laboratories capable of performing appropriate baseline testing. The Office of the Provost will reimburse the cost of the appropriate initial laboratory tests to the lab performing the tests and will reimburse the cost of an appropriate initial supply of medication to these pharmacies. Further cost of PEP therapy will be deferred to the student's personal medical insurance. If the student does not have personal health insurance, or if the student's personal health insurance refuses to pay for prolonged PEP therapy, the Office of the Provost will cover the costs associated with up to 28 days of PEP therapy. In the event that the Office of the Provost is covering the costs associated with a prolonged course of PEP therapy, the student may be asked to obtain those medications from the UK Hospital or Kentucky Clinic Pharmacy.

The student will be responsible for obtaining the initial supply of medication.

4. Students must contact the University Health Service at the time of injury and must follow-up with University Health Service as soon as practical or as directed by the University Health Service physician/staff. All students will report the injury to the supervising clinician/preceptor. Students on educational rotations in Kentucky, but out of Fayette County, will also report the injury to the course director.

5. In all situations of educational exposure to blood borne pathogens (whether or not the exposure is considered high-risk), all students will report to University Health Services for follow-up testing (as determined by the University Health Service), counseling, and continued prescription of medication (if appropriate). Students on rotation in Kentucky will have blood testing done at the University Health Service.

6. All students will complete a University of Kentucky Chandler Medical Center Reportable Occurrence Form and Occupational Exposure Form, and bring these completed forms to University Health Service for their scheduled appointment. These forms will be available on the patient care units in the University Hospital, the Chandler Medical Center AHEC Office, the AHEC regional offices, and the Education Offices of the various health care colleges of the University.

7. All source patients are to be **encouraged** to have blood work as designated by the protocol current at the present time (presently HCV antibody, HIV antibody, and Hepatitis B surface antigen.) The University Health Service Blood Borne Pathogen Program Nurse Coordinator will coordinate obtaining blood samples/reports from

source patients at the Chandler Medical Center and in the Lexington-Fayette County area. In other locales, the University Health Service and the course director will work with the community preceptor to complete the necessary blood work on the source patient.

The Office of the Provost will reimburse the appropriate party (e.g., hospital, laboratory or attending physician or provider) up to \$ 800 to cover the costs of these tests (HCV antibody, HIV antibody, and HBS AG), after results are forwarded to the University Health Service. Invoices are to be sent to Rita Wilkie, Office of the Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs, room 205 Frazee Hall, Lexington, KY 40506-0031.

### **C. Educational Exposure to Blood Borne Pathogens - Students in Educational Experiences Outside the Commonwealth of Kentucky, but inside the United States**

1. All students with an exposure will be directed to perform basic first aid immediately. These first-aid directives will be the same as those provided to employees with occupational injuries and will be developed by University Health Service. All students should have appropriate initial laboratory tests per current CDC guidelines done as soon as they can get an appointment but **no later than the next business day**. All students on an educational rotation outside the Commonwealth of Kentucky will be directed to contact the appropriate health service at that institution in the event of an educational exposure. **Students will be counseled to identify this location as part of their orientation to the facility.** The reason that students must contact the appropriate health service immediately is because of the need for rapid assessment about prophylactic medication, the completion of a appropriate initial laboratory tests, the rapid prescribing of this medication if indicated, and the limited capacity of a student to assess his or her own injury.

2. Students will be directed to have source patient information available for their discussion with the appropriate personnel at the outside facility, if available, concerning the exposure

Approximate time of exposure

- Location of exposure (e.g., hospital, office, etc.)
- Source of the exposure (e.g., blood, contaminated instrument, etc.)
- Type of exposure (e.g. skin, mucous membrane percutaneous)
- Length of exposure (e.g., seconds/minutes/hours)
- Status of the source patient: Negative, Positive, or Unknown HIV, HBV and HCV status
- Whether or not patient is at risk for HIV, HBV or HCV infection because of:
  - Multiple Blood Transfusions 1978-1985
  - IV Drug User
  - Multiple hetero- or homosexual partners,
  - Known HIV positive and/or have symptoms of AIDS, HBV or HCV.
  - Significant blood or bodily fluid exposure has occurred.

3. If health personnel at the outside facility believe that prophylactic medication is indicated, the physician will prescribe it. The student may ask that the physician prescribe a supply of the medication sufficient to last until the HIV status of the source patient is known and a definitive decision is reached regarding the need for prolonged PEP therapy. This will allow the student to begin medication and consult with University Health Services personnel as well. The student will be responsible for obtaining the medication and paying for it. The Office of the Provost will reimburse the student up to \$600.00 for the costs of the initial supply of medication.

4. In all situations of educational exposure to blood borne pathogens (whether or not the exposure is considered high-risk), students will contact University Health Service for follow-up testing, counseling, and continued prescription of medication (if appropriate). **If it is possible for the student to return to UK immediately, all of these activities will occur in University Health Service at no cost to the student.** If the student is unable to immediately return to UK, blood testing and medication may have to be obtained off campus; this may entail cost to the student.

5.. All students will complete a University of Kentucky Chandler Medical Center Reportable Occurrence Form and Occupational Exposure Form, and bring these completed forms to University Health Service for their scheduled appointment. These forms will be available on the patient care units in University Hospital, in the Chandler Medical Center AHEC Office, at the AHEC regional offices, and in the Education Offices of the various health care colleges of the University.

6. All source patients should have blood work, including HCV antibody, HIV antibody, and Hepatitis B surface antigen. The student should coordinate these test results being sent to University Health Service. The Office of the Provost will reimburse the appropriate party (e.g., hospital, laboratory or attending physician) up to \$800 to cover the costs of these tests (HCV antibody, HIV antibody, and HBS AG), after results are forwarded to UK.

7. Primary responsibility for coverage of PEP therapy will be deferred to the student's personal medical insurance. If the student does not have personal medical insurance, or if the student's personal medical insurance refuses to cover the cost of PEP therapy, the Office of the Provost will cover the costs associated with up to 28 days of PEP therapy. In the event that the Office of the Provost is covering the costs associated with a prolonged course of PEP therapy, the student may be asked to obtain those medications from the UK Hospital or Kentucky Clinic Pharmacy.

#### **D. Educational Exposure to Blood Borne Pathogens - Students in International Rotations**

1. Students/residents who elect to do international rotations will be required to contact the University of Kentucky Office of International Affairs and sign appropriate forms, including a waiver of these procedures, prior to leaving for that rotation.

#### **IV. Responsibilities**

##### **A. University Health Service is responsible for:**

1. participating in the regular review of appropriate policy for the management of educational exposure to blood borne pathogens;
2. providing students with 24-hour/day access to advice about the nature of an educational exposure and the need for prophylactic medication;
3. knowing locations where prophylactic medication can be prescribed and obtained; and
4. providing appropriate testing, counseling, medical care to students with educational exposures.

##### **B. The Office of the Provost is responsible for:**

1. providing funds for reimbursement of certain costs of student's appropriate initial laboratory testing, source patient testing, and in some instances, prophylactic medication.

##### **C. The college course directors are responsible for:**

1. informing faculty and students about this policy;
2. obtaining information on participating pharmacies in the various AHEC regions.

##### **D. Medical Center associate deans with educational responsibilities are responsible for:**

1. informing students about this policy and provide training in universal precautions suitable to the training and level of the student;
2. disseminating information to students about participating pharmacies;
3. working with University Health Services to address any student-specific issues, and to review this policy on a basis.

##### **E. University of Kentucky students are responsible for:**

1. reading the student information sheet and following the guidelines.
2. identifying the appropriate contacts at UK Chandler Medical Center, AHEC sites, and rotations outside Kentucky.
3. submitting the cost of PEP therapy to their personal medical insurance carrier and complying with requirements of that insurance carrier (including but not limited to seeing their primary care provider).

##### **F. Lended students/visiting students/visiting resident students are responsible for:**

1. contacting the University of Kentucky Health Service for guidance. Care will be provided only if exposure is high risk and no other option for care is available through lending institution.

2. paying for all expenses associated with testing, medications and related costs.

**V. This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the health care colleges' Academic Deans and University Health Service.**

References

1) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Updated U.S. Public Health Service Guidelines for the Management of Occupational Exposures to HBV, HCV, and HIV and Recommendations for Postexposure Prophylaxis. MMWR 2001;50(No. RR-11)

2) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Updated U.S. Public Health Service guidelines for the management of occupational exposures to HIV and recommendations for Postexposure Prophylaxis.

MMWR 2005;54(No. RR-9)

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