

## **EXPOSURE CONTROL POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to set forth the procedures for students, faculty and/or staff to follow in the event of an exposure, during a clinical experience, to bloodborne pathogens or other potentially infectious materials through a needle stick, sharps injury, splashes onto broken skin, splashes into eyes or mouth, or through a human bite that breaks the skin.

**POLICY:** Prompt reporting of any exposure to bloodborne pathogens or other potentially infectious materials is crucial to ensure that proper medical evaluation and treatment, if applicable, is initiated in a timely manner. Under this policy, in the event of an exposure incident, students and faculty are directed to immediately contact the University's Department of Risk Management, who will then make the necessary arrangements for evaluation, testing and treatment, if necessary.

### **A. Procedures for Needle Stick/Sharps Injuries and Body Fluid Exposures.**

Specifically, the following procedures should be followed in the event of any exposure incident:

1. The student should immediately notify the clinical faculty member or preceptor who is responsible for the learning experience in which the student is engaged. Again, prompt reporting of all exposures is crucial to ensure that proper medical evaluation and treatment, if applicable, is initiated in a timely manner.
2. Unless extraordinary circumstances are present, the clinical faculty member or preceptor shall assist the student in shedding contaminated clothing, wiping/washing off visible blood and/or body fluids and disinfecting the area exposed in an acceptable manner (i.e. a skin-approved bactericidal soap, a waterless cleaner, etc.). Care should be taken not to use abrasives or cleaners that will damage the skin. If blood and/or other body fluids are splashed in the eye or mucous membrane, flush the affected area vigorously with running water.
3. The clinical faculty member or preceptor shall assist the student in completing an Incident Report, which shall include the date and time of exposure and how the incident occurred. The clinical faculty member or preceptor shall then call the Department of Risk Management on the Coral Gables campus to report the incident (during business hours, (305) 284-3163; after hours and on weekends, 443-794-0261), and shall fax over the completed Incident Report to that office. Risk Management shall inform the School of Nursing of such incident.
4. If the exposure incident occurred at a hospital, health care agency or clinic (hereinafter referred to as "Health Care Agency") that is able to provide the necessary medical evaluation, initial prophylactic treatment and testing, the clinical preceptor or faculty member shall notify the appropriate personnel at the Health Care Agency that an exposure incident has occurred. Risk Management shall make the necessary arrangements with the Health Care Agency for evaluation, testing and prophylactic treatment, which must be started within two (2) hours to be effective. Risk Management will also work with the clinical faculty member or preceptor and the Health Care Agency to obtain consent and make arrangements to have the source individual tested

as soon as possible to determine HIV, HBV, and HCV infectivity. If warranted after initial prophylactic treatment, Risk Management shall make arrangements with the Health Care Agency for continued prophylactic treatment for the student. Risk Management will also make arrangements with the Health Care Agency for all necessary follow-up testing and treatment, including any counseling.

5. If the Health Care Agency where the exposure incident has occurred is unable or unwilling to perform the medical evaluation, testing and treatment, Risk Management shall make the necessary arrangements for the student to be tested and treated at Physician's Health Center (PHC) 305-653-7720, Miami, Florida, including any follow-up testing and treatment that may be necessary. If there is not sufficient time for the student to be tested and treated at PHC, Risk Management shall make arrangements for the student to be taken to the nearest emergency room for testing and treatment, including any follow-up testing and treatment.
6. All costs involved in the evaluation, testing and standard treatment after an exposure incident shall be covered by the University of Miami through an insurance policy maintained by the School of Nursing, subject to limits and exclusions set forth in such policy.
7. In addition to Risk Management, the student and/or the clinical faculty member or preceptor may also call the 24-hour nationwide Needle Stick hotline at 1-888-HIV-4911 if there are any questions or concerns about the exposure incident, evaluation or treatment. Furthermore, this policy shall be posted on the School of Nursing's website for easy access.

**B. Health Sciences Student Exposure Fee.** School of Nursing students shall be charged a fee to offset the costs of providing the insurance policy covering the costs in the event of exposure to blood-borne pathogens or other potentially infectious materials as defined above. Such fee, the amount of which may be changed at any time or from time to time by the School upon notice to students, shall be assessed at the commencement of each student's clinical program

School of Nursing  
Draft  
2/17/05

*wp\kyle\nursingpolicy.dw*