

Policy Number : 100.1033.113

Policy Revision Date : 2022-2-22

Policy Category : General Administrative

Policy Owner : Associate Dean for Student Affairs

Policy Audience : Students, Faculty

1. Definitions :

2. Medical Curriculum Committee Review :

Date of last review: February 22, 2022

3. Introduction / Purpose :

Each individual student is responsible for his/her health and safety throughout their education at Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, however, the school is dedicated to providing students with the necessary information about the appropriate policies and procedures to follow when a student is potentially exposed to blood-borne pathogens or communicable diseases.

4. Governance and Enforcement :

Associate Dean for Student Affairs

5. Policy :

Training:

Students will be given an overview and supporting materials on basic infection control and procedures to follow after an exposure during orientation. All Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine students will complete annual Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) training and education regarding needle stick/sharps/body fluid procedures and the prevention of the transmission of blood borne pathogens. This training will also be available online.

Blood-borne pathogen exposure:

Additionally, before their first clinical experience students will receive detailed instruction and information pertaining to the prevention and pathophysiology of all infectious diseases that students may face in a clinical care setting. Upon exposure to a potential hazard, medical students should perform basic first aid immediately including washing the needle stick or cut with soap and water and for skin or mucus membrane exposure rinsing eyes, nose, mouth or

skin with clean water. After completing first aid the student must immediately contact their clinical instructor or attending physician and Geisinger Employee Health, as information on the source patient needs to be obtained. The student should report for evaluation to the nearest clinical site Employee Health center or the emergency department (during off hours and then contact Geisinger Employee Health by the next business day for follow up). The student will have the appropriate tests obtained and prophylactic treatment provided at the locations outlined above. The source patient's blood will be tested for HIV and Hepatitis B and C. The student will be followed by Geisinger Employee Health. A Geisinger Employee Health provider will review this information and communicate with the student and clinical site, as applicable, to ensure that appropriate follow up is received. In the affiliation agreements with the clinical campuses, the provision of care and follow-up for exposure to infectious and environmental exposures are addressed. Each site will have adequate onsite service to provide the immediate care and follow up. Employee and Student Health Services will implement uniform policies and procedures addressing these exposures using the current Center for Disease Control guidelines that will be followed at all clinical sites. All clinical affiliation agreements address the provision of care and follow up to students so exposed. Communication between the site and the Employee Health will occur in order to ensure that policies are followed, and the process is completed. An appointment schedule will be developed for subsequent follow up. In general, six-week, three month and twelve month visits will be scheduled for the students at Employee Health Services. The student will be asked to sign the "Agreement for Follow Up for Needlestick/Body Fluid Exposure" form indicating their understanding of the recommendation to comply with the schedule, especially if graduation or departure from Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine occurs before the final twelve-month assessment.

All costs for testing, immunization, prophylactic medications and follow up care as a result of exposure will be covered by Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine for the first month. Insurance will be billed thereafter. Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine provides a mandatory program of medical and disability insurance at enrollment as part of the student's health care program. Ultimately, the student is responsible for the costs associated with any medical care needs and is protected by the insurance program. A student may request the College's assistance by discussing the situation with a representative of the Office of Student Affairs.

Communicable Diseases:

In order to protect health and safety at the affiliate hospitals, patients and staff, students with communicable diseases or conditions will not be permitted to engage in patient contact until such conditions have been resolved, as documented by a physician. If a student is unsure whether he/she should participate in patient care, the student should contact Student Health Service. In particular, persons with the following medical conditions will not be allowed patient contact without prior medical clearance: • Active skin lesions • Respiratory tract symptoms • Fever • Acute skin rashes especially with fever, or acute skin lesions (carbuncles/boils) • Enteric infections – acute GI symptoms such as vomiting and diarrhea especially is associated with flu • Conjunctivitis Students must follow all GCSOM and local clinical partner COVID-related guidelines. All students who are planning to return to learning activities are to contact SHS by phone to determine status/follow up clearance requirements.

6. Key Stakeholders :

Students, Faculty