



Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Policy Title: Post Exposure Care

Policy Number: EC.12.04.170815

Applies to: All WSU Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine Medical Students

Date: 03/03/2020

1.0 Policy Statement:

It is the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine policy to provide the infrastructure and support that enables, and requires, medical students to take immediate action following any blood and body fluid exposure or other incident, such as a needle stick injury, that results in the need for medical treatment.

2.0 Definitions:

Exposure: State of being exposed to contact with a pathogen

Pathogen: A bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that can cause disease.

Incident: An event or occurrence of contact with pathogens i.e. needle stick, eye splash, cuts, and burns.

Medical Treatment: Care provided by healthcare personnel or physician to manage post exposure.

Immediate: Done at once; nearest time.

3.0 Responsibilities:

Associate Dean for Clinical Education

4.0 Procedures

Medical students are to follow the steps below in the event of any exposure to a potential infectious topical, blood borne or airborne infectious agent. In the event of an exposure, the student is approved for removal from their clinical activities to seek immediate medical treatment.

Medical Students

Immediate actions:

1. First aid and initial care at the location where the injury occurred and direction for immediate medical attention needed following the emergency procedures of the medical facility.
2. Record detailed description of the exposure (type of injury or exposure, instrument involved, type of fluid, location of injury and setting).
3. Record patient demographic data.
4. Notify key clinical personnel and College of Medicine faculty preceptor at the site.

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Actions within two hours:

1. Receive care, testing, assessment and evaluation of risk at nearest emergency department that may include laboratory testing, treatment options, referral or other appropriate actions for the safety and protection of the student, and others who may be at risk. Students are to submit their personal insurance card at the location where emergency care is provided as they are not eligible for workers' compensation.
2. Decisions regarding need and recommended follow up for treatment, testing, referral(s).
3. Notify the Associate Dean for Clinical Education and Clerkship Coordinator of the incident.

Actions within 24 hours:

1. Associate Dean for Clinical Education, Clerkship Coordinator, or faculty preceptor complete an incident report at <https://hrs.wsu.edu/managers/incident-report/>
2. Notify the Office of Admissions, Student Affairs and Inclusion of the incident.
3. Follow recommendations from your medical care provider for further diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up as needed.

Responsibilities of faculty at clinical sites

1. Provisions for the care of students who sustain needle-stick injuries, eye splashes, cuts, burns or other exposures are to be supervised by faculty preceptor at clinical sites.
2. Associate Deans for Clinical Education will be responsible for informing clinical faculty and residents about the College of Medicine's post exposure policy

Financial Responsibility

Medical evaluation and management costs post exposure:

1. The Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine will reimburse up to \$1000 of medical expenses for counseling and post-exposure treatment for incidents within the first three days (72 hours) of exposure that are not covered by student health insurance. Reimbursement claims must be submitted within 90 days to the Office of Admissions, Student Affairs, and Inclusion. Any additional expenses beyond \$1000 will be the responsibility of the student.
2. After 72 hours, students will be responsible for any other costs related to the incident.
3. Students will notify their Associate Dean for Clinical Education and the Office of Admissions, Student Affairs, and Inclusion of financial issues pertaining to the pathogen exposure.

Office of Student Affairs Support

If College of Medicine medical students have unanswered questions or need additional support, they should contact the Office of Admissions, Student Affairs, and Inclusion for assistance.

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Students may pursue their studies as long as their continued involvement does not pose a health or safety hazard to themselves or others. It is expected that all students can be accommodated as needed with some modification to their program of study to reduce the risks of blood borne pathogen transmission.

Any student who needs post-care treatment because of injuries and or medical conditions from pathogen exposure in a clinical setting may be eligible to apply for reasonable accommodations following the procedures outlined at <https://medicine.wsu.edu/md-program/student-affairs/student-handbook/disabilities-and-accommodations/>.

A student, when provided reasonable accommodations, must be able to perform the routine duties and minimum requirements for each course/clinical assignment, and meet the technical standards for enrollment at the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine.

In the event of a required short-term accommodation adjustment, the student will speak with the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs who will then collaborate with the Associate Dean for Curriculum and the Associate Dean for Assessment, Accreditation, and Evaluation to create and implement a modified learning plan designed to preserve the student's standing until the student is able to fully participate in the regular medical school curricular requirements. The student's Associate Dean for Clinical Education and Course Director(s) will be consulted if the short-term accommodation involves a Year 3 or Year 4 student.

The following forms are available on the WSU Student Health website:
<https://spokane.wsu.edu/studentaffairs/health-and-wellness/>

- Blood Borne Pathogens Campus Student Procedures (pdf)
- Blood Borne Pathogens Abbreviated Procedures (pdf)
- Report an accident

5.0 Related Policies:

- Immunizations and Tuberculosis Screening Policy EC.12.05.170516
- Communicable Disease Policy EC.12.07.170815
- Medical Student Training on Universal Precautions and Biohazards EC.12.06.170815

6.0 Key Search Words

Exposure, incident, urgent care

7.0 Revision History

Original Approval	Policy number	Revision Date Approval
8/15/2017	EC.12.04.170815	03/03/2020

Responsible Office: Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine Office of Admissions, Student Affairs, and Inclusion

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Policy Contact: Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

Supersedes: E.C. 12.04.170815 approved 8/15/2017