Policy Title: Medical Student Training on Universal Precautions and Biohazards

Policy Number: EC.12.06.170815

Applies to: Medical students

Date: 06/04/2024

1.0 Policy Statement
All medical students must undergo training in universal and specific precautions and infection control measures for pathogens and environmental hazards prior to patient contact. Training must be maintained and updated throughout students’ enrollment in the MD program.

2.0 Definitions
Airborne pathogens: The relevant pathogens may be viruses, bacteria, or fungi, and they may be spread through coughing, sneezing, raising of dust, spraying of liquids, or similar activities likely to generate aerosol particles or droplets.

Bloodborne pathogen: Infectious microorganisms in human blood that can cause disease in humans. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, hepatitis B (HBV), hepatitis C (HCV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

CastleBranch: National compliance management vendor contracted by the College of Medicine that accepts and approves immunization records for medical students. CastleBranch is also utilized by the College of Medicine to provide annual background checks, drug screenings, and OSHA and HIPAA training for medical students.

Environmental hazards: Substances, states or events which have the potential to threaten the surrounding natural environment and/or adversely affect people’s health.

Infection control: Infection Control is the discipline concerned with preventing nosocomial or healthcare-associated infection, a practical (rather than academic) sub-discipline of epidemiology.

Pathogens: Bacteria, viruses, or other microorganisms that can cause disease.

Precautions: A measure taken in advance to prevent something dangerous from happening.

Universal precautions: An approach to infection control to treat all human blood and certain human body fluids as if they were known to be infectious for HIV, HBV and other bloodborne pathogens.

3.0 Responsibilities
Office of Student Experience (Student Affairs)

4.0 Procedures
Each student shares responsibility for his/her/their health and safety in the clinical and educational setting. Medical students are required to take annual online trainings administered through CastleBranch which includes several required courses on universal precautions and prevention. Documentation of training completion are kept in CastleBranch for record management.
5.0 Related Policies

Post Exposure Care Policy EC.12.04.170815
Communicable Disease Exposure Policy EC.12.07.170815
Student Vaccination and Health Screening Admission Policy EC.12.05.170516

6.0 Key Search Words

Biohazard, universal precautions, pathogen, infection control

7.0 Revision History

Original Approval Policy number 8/15/2017 EC.12.06.170815

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