

Policies and Procedures

<i>SECTION:</i> Academic Concerns	<i>NO.</i> 4.3.3.		
<i>CHAPTER:</i> Students	<i>ISSUED:</i> 11/90	<i>REV. A</i> 11/93	<i>REV. B</i> 12/10/03
<i>POLICY:</i> Student Exposure to Infectious Disease	<i>PAGE 1 OF 3</i>		

PURPOSE

To advise Creighton University's students of the steps that should be taken when the student is exposed to potentially infectious blood or body fluid during their course of study at Creighton.

DEFINITIONS

Exposure is defined as, but not limited to, percutaneous (i.e., through the skin) injury or contact of mucous membranes, skin, or eyes with blood, tissues, or other body fluids. Skin exposure occurs when exposed skin is chapped, abraded, or afflicted with dermatitis (i.e., inflammation of the skin) or the contact is prolonged or involving an extensive area.

Significant exposure to blood or other body fluid is defined as specific eye, mouth or other mucous membrane, nonintact skin or parenteral (i.e., injection, needle stick) contact with blood or other materials known to transmit infectious diseases.

POLICY

1. Education of Students. Each School/Department is responsible for educating students who may be exposed to blood and/or body fluids as part of their course of study, on the universal precautions that should be followed to reduce the risk of exposure to potentially infectious blood and/or body fluids and the contents of this policy.
2. Response to Exposure. In case of suspected exposure to potentially infectious blood or body fluids in the academic or clinical setting, the student should:

STOP current activity and should seek evaluation and treatment within one hour of exposure.

CLEANSE any wound with soap and water. Flush eyes with water after any splash exposure.

REPORT to your supervisor/faculty and the appropriate facility/institutional supervisor.

In the clinical setting, appropriate institutional reporting is necessary so informed consent may be obtained and appropriate diagnostic testing of the source patient and student may be performed. Any diagnostic testing performed on the student and/or source patient should include HIV, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C.

3. Report of Incident. In all instances of exposure to potentially infectious blood or body fluid, the student should:
 - A. Notify Student Health Services. Contact Student Health Services (280-2735) within 24-48 hours of the incident.
 - B. Incident Report Form. Incidents that occur at Creighton clinics should be reported using the University Incident Report Form (HR-24). Incidents occurring at other facilities should be

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reported using the facility's incident report form and the University HR-24 Form. Fax the completed HR-24 incident report form to Student Health Services (402-280-1859).

4. Procedure for Initiating Evaluation and Treatment

- A. Exposures at Creighton University Medical Center (Saint Joseph Hospital, On-campus Creighton Clinics and their laboratories, and the Dental School).

During regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) students should go directly to Employee Health Services, located in Human Resources, Room 2231 (449-4467). On weekends and holidays (7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) students should go directly to the Emergency Department. During all evening and night shifts page the House Nursing Supervisor on in-house pager 22-0422.

- B. Exposures at Other Hospitals/Institutions/Non-Creighton Clinics.

Students should be advised to contact the Nursing/House Supervisor or the Health Sciences School Office of Student Affairs and follow their institutional procedures for exposure.

- C. Exposures at Creighton University Medical Center (Off-campus Clinics and Laboratories).

Students should immediately report the incident to their supervisor/faculty. Alternatively, the student may go to Employee Health Services (Creighton University Medical Center - Saint Joseph Hospital), located at Human Resources, Room 2231 (449-4467).

- D. Exposures at Other Locations (Non-Hospital; Out of USA).

The sponsoring School at the University shall be responsible for identifying a program contact person to arrange for appropriate medical care and intervention for all non-hospital programs and programs outside the USA such as ILAC in which a University student is participating.

- E. Notification of Student Health or Primary Care Provider. In all cases of exposure in the Omaha area, the student should make an appointment with Student Health (402-280-2735) or their Primary Care Provider within 24-48 hours after the exposure. Students outside the Omaha area should contact Student Health Services (402-280-2735) or their Primary Care Provider within 24-48 hours.

- F. Student Refusal of Evaluation and Treatment. The student's supervisor/faculty shall advise the student of the risks/benefits of evaluation and diagnostic testing. If the student refuses to seek evaluation and diagnostic testing, the student's refusal of evaluation and diagnostic testing shall be noted on the institutional incident report form and signed by the student.

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5. Student Request for Source Testing

In Nebraska when an individual experiences a significant exposure to the blood or body fluid of a patient, the individual has the right to request that the source patient be asked to consent to diagnostic testing for the presence or absence of infectious disease (i.e., HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C). Students should be advised that any requests must be made to the appropriate institution. Creighton University shall comply with the consent requirements set forth by Nebraska statute, Neb. Rev. Statute 71-514.03 for its outpatients that are the source of the exposure.

6. Payment for Evaluation and Treatment.

Creighton health sciences students are required to have both inpatient and outpatient health insurance which covers accidents and illnesses. All charges for evaluation and treatment shall be submitted to the student's health insurance company for payment. Prescribed initial diagnostic testing and initial prophylactic treatment which is not paid by the student's insurer will be paid for by the School until the source test results are received, but for no longer than five (5) business days. This includes payment for any student co-pays and deductibles incurred during the first five days after initial diagnostic testing and initiation of prophylactic treatment. All other evaluation and treatment services and/or prophylactic treatments ordered are the responsibility of the student or his/her insurer.

ADMINISTRATION

This policy shall be administered by the Deans of each School. Questions regarding this policy should be directed to the Dean of the School or his/her designee.

AMENDMENTS OR TERMINATION OF POLICY

Creighton University reserves the right to modify, amend or terminate this policy at any time.