

# ***Policies and Procedures***

<b>SECTION:</b> <b>Academic Concerns</b>	<b>NO.</b> <b>4.3.4.</b>		
<b>CHAPTER:</b> <b>Students</b>	<b>ISSUED:</b> 12/10/03	<i>REV. A</i>	<i>REV. B</i>
<b>POLICY:</b> <b>Preventing Transmission of Bloodborne Pathogens from Students to Patients</b>	<i>PAGE 1 OF 2</i>		

## **PURPOSE**

To prevent the transmission of bloodborne pathogens from students during the course of their professional training at Creighton University.

## **POLICY**

Creighton University follows public health recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and other public health agencies as part of implementing this policy to prevent transmission of bloodborne pathogens from students to patients.

## **SCOPE**

This policy applies to any student who may perform exposure-prone procedures during the course of their studies at Creighton University.

## **DEFINITIONS**

"Bloodborne pathogens" means, for purposes of this policy, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), and hepatitis C virus (HCV).

"Exposure-prone procedures" are distinct from invasive procedures. Characteristics of exposure-prone procedures include digital palpation of a needle tip in a body cavity or the simultaneous presence of the health care worker's fingers and a needle or other sharp instrument or object in a poorly visualized or highly confined anatomic site. Performance of exposure-prone procedures presents a recognized risk of percutaneous injury to the health care worker and if such an injury occurs, the health care worker's blood is likely to contact the patient's body cavity, subcutaneous tissues, and/or mucous membranes.

## **PROCEDURE**

### **A. Responsibility of Schools/Departments.**

Schools/Departments whose students may perform exposure-prone procedures as a part of their course of study shall:

- Educate their students about this policy and about the risk of bloodborne pathogen transmission through exposure-prone procedures; and
- Provide students infected with bloodborne pathogens a contact within the School/Department to request guidance.

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### B. Responsibility of Students with Bloodborne Pathogens

Students who are infected with bloodborne pathogens and who will perform exposure-prone procedures shall:

- Notify their School/Department contact of their status and seek counsel from an expert review panel before performing any exposure-prone procedures; and
- Not perform any exposure-prone procedures until they have obtained guidance from an expert review panel and been advised under what circumstances, if any, they may perform these procedures.

### C. Expert Review Panel

1. Convening an Expert Review Panel. Upon receipt of information that a student with bloodborne pathogens may perform exposure-prone procedures, the Dean of the School shall convene an expert review panel to advise on the precautions and/or limitations, if any, that should be implemented.
2. Composition. The expert review panel shall include experts who represent a balanced perspective and shall include at least one physician with subspecialty training in infectious disease.
3. Confidentiality. Members of the expert review panel shall maintain the confidentiality of any information obtained through the review process.
4. Responsibilities. The expert review panel shall provide advice based on up-to-date public health recommendations, which currently includes the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Recommendations for Preventing Transmission of Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Hepatitis B Virus to Patients During Exposure-Prone Invasive Procedures. MMWR Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report Recommendations and Reports 1991 (July 12); 40(RR08):1-9.  
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00014845.htm>

### **AMENDMENTS OR TERMINATION OF THIS POLICY**

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