

Creighton University School of Medicine

Medical Education Program Policies

POLICY: Infectious Diseases Policy

GOVERNING BODY: Educational Program Committee

APPROVAL DATE: 7/9/2019

REVISED DATE: N/A

LCME ACCREDITATION STANDARD REFERENCE: 12.8 Student Exposure Policies/Procedures

PURPOSE

This policy defines:

- a. The responsibility of students infected with an infectious disease
- b. The procedure that will be followed for students who test positive with hepatitis B surface antigen

POLICY

The Medical Education Program adheres to the Creighton University Control of Infectious Diseases Policy and procedures:

<https://www.creighton.edu/generalcounsel/cupolicies/>

In addition to the University's policy and procedure, The Medical Education Program requires persons afflicted with an infectious disease to disclose their medical condition to other members of the community with whom they have had or are to have contact which could pose a risk of transmission of disease.

PROCEDURE

1. Hepatitis B Virus (HBV)

In the event a student tests positive for hepatitis B surface antigen, the following procedures are followed:

A. Step 1:

Student receives positive results from Hepatitis B screening at the Creighton University Center for Health and Counseling (CHC). CHC will schedule a provider visit for the student. During the provider visit the student receives a copy of CU Policies and Procedures 4.3.4, "Preventing Transmission of Blood borne Pathogens from Student to Patients" and the "Notice to Student of University Policy to Self-Report;" the latter form must be signed and then kept in CHC's file. This form advises that the student must self-report to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs. The student is also advised to schedule rechecks with a specialist every 6 months to monitor the status of their illness. CHC will give any necessary referrals to the student for an appropriate specialist.

B. Step 2:

The student contacts the Associate Dean for Student Affairs. In this initial conversation, the Associate Dean for Student Affairs asks the student to follow up with his or her provider and

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to provide results of their circulating viral burden to the Expert Review Panel (ERP), which consists of the Clinical Director of the Center for Health and Counseling, a representative from the School of Medicine Infectious Disease Department, a representative from the Creighton University / CHI Health Clinic Infectious Disease Department, and the Program Coordinator for the School of Medicine.

The ERP is charged with:

- a. Evaluation of the infected student's clinical status
- b. Assessment of the student's viral burden data
- c. Assessment of the student's experience and expertise
- d. Assessment of the procedures performed by the student and the specific techniques use to perform these procedures
- e. Determination of the extent to which the student adheres to accepted infection control precautions
- f. Provisions of recommendations about the use of specific barriers, work practice controls, and infection prevention strategies for the conduct of specific procedures and assess the student's willingness to adhere to these recommendations
- g. Provisions of counseling to the student about her or his ethical obligation to report a patient exposure, should one occur, and about the appropriate procedures to follow, should an exposure occur
- h. Develop and execute a contract between the infected student and the ERP and/or institution
- i. Notify Risk Management should a breach in procedure or patient exposure occur

Results from the test will guide the ERP's recommendations for any precautions or limitations for this student's clinic activities based on the SHEA guidelines.

C. Step 3:

The Associate Dean for Student Affairs calls a meeting of the ERP to discuss the specific situation of the student and to review and recommend any "precautions and/or limitations if any that should be implemented" for this student.

D. Step 4:

The Associate Dean for Student Affairs meets one-on-one with the student to discuss the ERP's guidelines and expectations:

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- a. The expectation that the student self-report to all clerkship directors to receive information on restrictions, precautions and career advice. In addition, an email will be sent to the student's clerkship or elective director notifying him/her of the student's status.
 - b. The student will be referred to a physician familiar with the management of HBV infection and the recommended treatments.
 - c. The student is expected to have his or her viral load checked every 6 months and provide those results to the ERP for review (see Step 5).
 - d. The student will receive career counseling (to avoid specialties such as surgery and Ob/Gyn).
 - e. The student will be expected to sign a contract/letter from the ERP that characterizes his or her responsibilities regarding self-reporting, clinical precautions, and limitations
- E. Step 5:
After a 6-month period, the student should again visit his or her specialist and provide circulating viral load information to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and the ERP. If there has been any change in the student's viral load the ERP may need to meet and discuss any changes in the recommended precautions and/or limitations for this student.
2. Responsibilities HBV Infected Students:
- a. Students who know they are positive for Hepatitis B Surface antigen shall consult the Expert Review Panel as to procedures to be followed.
 - b. All HBV infected students in the School of Medicine who engage in patient care must self-report their medical condition to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs.
 - c. The Associate Dean for Student Affairs will by way of the Expert Review Panel (ERP) assist HBV infected students in managing occupational risks and obtaining education and career counseling.
 - d. Students who in retrospect learn they have performed invasive procedures while HBV infected shall notify the Associate Dean for Student Affairs who shall consult the ERP to ascertain if a "look-back" program and patient notification are appropriate.
 - e. Refusal by HBV infected students in the School of Medicine to adhere to this policy constitutes grounds for disciplinary action, up to dismissal, in accordance with CU policy.

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3. Responsibilities of the Medical Education Program to HBV Infected Students:
 - a. The School of Medicine has a commitment to confidentiality, protection against unlawful discrimination, and reasonable accommodation for its students in accordance to applicable state and federal law.
 - b. The Associate Dean for Student Affairs shall appoint an Expert Review Panel to make recommendations concerning “look-back” programs and patient notification.

SCOPE

All students enrolled in the medical education program, and members of the Expert Review Panel.

ADMINISTRATION AND INTERPRETATION

The Office of Student Affairs is responsible for the administration of this policy. Please forward questions to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs.

AMENDMENT

This policy may be amended by majority vote of the School of Medicine Medical Education Program Educational Program Committee.