

Great Falls College MSU Protocol

TITLE: **IMPLEMENTING NEEDLESTICK/BLOOD BORNE PATHOGEN EXPOSURE PROTOCOL**

AREAS AFFECTED: All Great Falls College MSU students that are required to participate in clinical training on campus and/or at participating facilities.

GOAL: Students exposed to bloodborne pathogens are appropriately assessed, treated and offered follow-up per current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines.

PROCEDURE/RECOMENDATIONS:

- I. Students sustains a blood/infectious body fluid exposure to non-intact skin, mucous membrane, or by percutaneous injury. Exposure to any of the following may pose risk for blood borne pathogen transmission: Blood, Semen, Vaginal Secretions, Cerebrospinal Fluid, Synovial Fluid, Pleural Fluid, Peritoneal Fluid, Pericardial Fluid, and Amniotic Fluid. Body Fluids that do NOT pose a risk of blood borne pathogen transmission UNLESS visibly contaminated with blood include: Urine, Saliva, Nonpurulent Sputum, Stool, Emesis, Nasal Discharge, Tears, and Sweat.
 - A. **STUDENT: Steps, if exposure occurs**
 1. Immediately notify your supervisor (instructor if on campus) or nurse of the incident and the need to implement needlestick protocol.
 2. Wash wound and skin with soap and water; flush mucous membranes, including eyes, with water or sterile saline for 15 minutes assuring fluids drains to outer side of eye.
 3. Notify supervisor (instructor if on campus) or charge nurse that source patient's blood needs to be tested with the rapid HIV test if not already known to be infected with HIV, Hep B or Hep C. **For GFC MSU dental clinic patients, please have source patient go to Cascade County Health Department for blood test. Treatment is to end immediately after stick has occurred. Supervising instructor will need to call ahead to notify the clinic that you are coming.**
 4. Find out "source patients" rapid blood tests as soon as possible. Your clinical site or supervisor (instructor if on campus) should do this for you. However, you may have to make sure this is done. IF the tests were done through CCHD, you can call the department yourself and ask the results of the tests (see number highlighted below).
 - a. If the source patient is positive for HIV, post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) are available for you that may prevent HIV transmission; however, they are most effective when started within two hours after exposure.
 - b. If patient's blood is positive for Hep B and/or Hep C, treatment should be given as soon as possible.
 5. Base-Line Blood Draw for you, the student: Leave your area of clinical training, only when it is safe or someone has replaced your duties
 - a. Base-Line blood draws should be performed the same day the exposure occurred.
 6. Report to one of the following providers
 - a. BMG Same Day Orthopedics: Monday–Friday from 0800-1600

- b. Benefis Walk-In clinic: 1600-2000 or on the weekends
 - c. City County Health Department: 8:30-4:30 Monday-Friday (406) 454-6950 options #1
 - d. **Last resort** should be to the Emergency Room after hours, Holidays, and/or weekends as soon as possible.
 - e. **NOTE:** If incident occurs out of town, Great Falls, check to see if they have a City County Health Department, walk-in clinic or use their ER.
- 7. Inform the provider of your immune status for Hepatitis B virus (HBV), if known.
- 8. Inform the provider of any known risk factors of the source patient or known positive test results for HIV, Hepatitis B (HBV), or Hepatitis C (HCV).
- 9. Provide the provider with information on:
 - a. Type and amount of fluid (e.g., blood, visibly bloody fluid, other potentially infectious fluid or tissue, concentrated virus)
 - b. Type of exposure (i.e., percutaneous injury, mucous membrane or non-intact skin exposure, bite resulting in blood exposure)
 - c. If percutaneous injury, type of device (i.e., hollow needle and gauge, solid needle, broken glass, other non-needle sharp)
- 10. If the source patient is known and consents to HIV testing (if status not already known to be positive):
 - a. Receive HIV pretest counseling from provider and go to the lab for baseline post-exposure lab tests (HIV antibody, Hepatitis C antibody, and Hepatitis B surface antibody (if status not already known)).
 - b. Receive source patient rapid HIV test results from provider (usually available 1 hour after source patient blood obtained).
 - c. Receive further treatment as indicated by exposure type and source patient's rapid HIV test result. If the source patient is known to be positive for HIV, antiviral drugs may be started depending on the severity of the exposure.
- 11. If the source patient is unknown or does not consent to HIV testing and no previously drawn blood is available:
 - a. Assist the provider with assessment of need for HIV prophylaxis based on exposure type, severity, and the possible risk of HIV exposure.
 - b. Receive HIV pretest counseling in Benefis Same Day Orthopedics Monday-Friday from 0800-1600, City Count Health, in the area, or ER after hours, on holidays and/or weekends for baseline post-exposure lab tests (HIV antibody, Hepatitis C antibody, and Hepatitis B surface antibody (if status not already known), and other baseline tests (CBC, kidney and liver function tests) ordered if started on HIV Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP).
- 12. Keep information concerning source patient's HIV status and all other medical information confidential.
- 13. Students with a positive serological test within 72 hours of exposure will be considered to have been seropositive prior to the reported incident.

B. REPORT INCIDENT TO YOUR PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND CLINICAL CORDINATOR

- 1. Contact your Program Director or Clinical Coordinator to fill out an incident report.
 - a. If you have any questions regarding this protocol, please call you program director or clinical coordinator for guidance. [Incident Report](#)

C. FOLLOW UP TREATMENT

1. Additional blood draws may be necessary after a needlestick or blood borne exposure.
 - a. If source patient's blood is positive for HIV, the provider you chose will direct you for future treatment.
 - 1) Post-Exposure Prophylaxis should be started within 2-3 hours of exposure.
 - 2) The provider will also provide follow up times and a treatment plan.
 - b. If source patients' blood is positive for HEP C, treatment will be administered.
 - 1) Post-Exposure Prophylaxis should be started within 2-3 hours of exposure.
 - 2) 8 week, 6 month and 1 year blood draws should be performed to monitor disease status.
 - c. Note: If a needlestick or exposure encounter happens and the source patient is positive for HIV, Hep C, or Hep B, the exposed student should practice safe sex for at least 8 weeks.
2. Seek counseling if necessary.
 - a. Counseling for exposure can done at the City County Health Department.
 - b. Benefis Employee Health is also available to answer any questions you may have.
3. If the patients' rapid test for HIV is negative, there is no need to follow up with additional testing unless advised to do so.
4. If the patients' records are negative for Hep C, follow up blood draws should be performed at 8 weeks and 6 months.

D. PAYMENT OF TESTING AND TREATMENT

1. All students enrolled in a Great Falls College MSU Health Science Program are responsible for paying for their blood testing, treatment and follow-up visits after a needlestick or blood borne pathogen exposure.
 - a. Students must be covered by health insurance.
 - 1) Students must provide proof of health insurance to their program director before clinical rotations begin.
 - b. Students should avoid using the Emergency Room because of the high cost associated with treatment from the ER.
2. All students that seek medical attention because of a needlestick or blood borne pathogen exposure during school established clinicals, will be reimbursed \$100.00 from the Great Falls College MSU, for their initial visit. **Note:** There is only a **one-time** per student, \$100.00 reimbursement. **For campus dental clinic, expenses for patients going to CCHD for source blood testing will be covered by college. For dental clinic patients there will be a maximum of \$100.00 one time reimbursement.**
 - a. If you choose to use the City County Health, they will bill the school directly.
 - b. If you use any other facility, please bring your bill Director of the Health Sciences Division at the Great Falls College MSU campus to be reimbursed.

References:

Uniform Health Care Act (Title 50, Chapter 16, Part 6, Montana Code Annotated; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Updated U.S. Public Health Service Guidelines for the Management of Occupational Exposures to HBV, HCV, and HIV and Recommendations for Post-exposure Prophylaxis. MMWR 2001; 50(RR11): 1-42.