

**THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
CAPSTONE COLLEGE OF NURSING**

**Policies & Procedures Regarding Instances Involving Blood or
Blood Products-to-Blood Contact***

*In the remainder of this document, blood or blood products-to-blood contact is referred to as accidental exposure to blood or blood products. (These exposures include accidents such as needle sticks, open wounds, breaks in the skin, etc.).

Assumption

When an incident occurs that involves accidental exposure to blood or blood products, the situation is one that demands immediate attention because of the potential effects it can have on the health of the student.

Policies

1. All students are required to complete at least the first two of three immunizations in the Hepatitis B series prior to the first day of class in Semester I courses. The third immunization in the series must be completed prior to beginning Semester III courses.
2. The potential dangers of situations involving accidental blood exposure are discussed with students in their first clinical nursing course. In subsequent courses, the Hepatitis B/HIV packet obtained for the first clinical nursing course contains reminders of procedures for infection control, and students are reminded about the procedures to follow when accidental exposure to blood or blood products occurs.
3. Students must wear appropriate protective equipment when performing any task(s) that may involve exposure to blood or body fluids.
4. Students are responsible for reporting immediately to their faculty member or to their preceptor any incident that involves accidental exposure to blood or blood products.
5. Students are responsible for adhering to established policies and procedures of the College and the clinical agency when situations of accidental exposure to blood or blood products occur.
6. The student may choose at any point to refuse follow-up treatment after an accidental exposure to blood or blood products; however, this decision must be communicated in writing to the Assistant Dean, Undergraduate or Graduate Programs, Capstone College of Nursing.
7. The student is responsible for arranging for any follow-up testing or prophylaxis that is recommended as a result of initial testing after accidental exposure to blood or blood products.
8. All costs incurred as a result of accidental exposure to blood or blood products, including laboratory tests for both the student and the patient, are the student's financial responsibility.
9. Prior to beginning clinical experiences, including internships and preceptorships, faculty who supervise the clinical experiences are responsible for assuring that the clinical agency staff and/or preceptor and preceptee understand the procedure to follow when there is an accidental exposure to blood or blood products.

10. Documentation of the accidental exposure to blood or blood products is placed in the student record by the faculty member.
11. The Capstone College of Nursing adheres to the [Updated U. S. Public Health Service Guidelines for the Management of Occupational Exposures to HBV, HCV, and HIV and Recommendations for Post-Exposure Prophylaxis, CDC, June 29, 2001](#)

General Procedures to Follow When Accidental Exposure Occurs:

1. Should an exposure to blood or body fluids occur from a needlestick in the campus laboratory or a clinical setting, the student should:
 - a. Allow the wound to bleed freely—milking the wound to promote bleeding is recommended.
 - b. Wash the wound vigorously with soap and water.
 - c. Report the incident to the clinical instructor.
2. The student and faculty member follow the clinical agency guidelines for initial treatment of an accidental exposure to blood or blood products. If the tested blood or blood product in question is positive, the student is to be advised by the health care institution's Infection Control Coordinator (or a person in a comparable position) about the type of prophylaxis that is required. The student may then elect to receive prophylactic treatment from the agency, Student Health Center, the University Medical Center, or the student's private health care provider.
3. The student, faculty member or preceptor must complete an incident report and any other forms required by the agency. The CCN form, Statement Related to Incidents Involving Blood or Blood Products – to Blood Contact – or a summary containing similar information is completed by the student and faculty member or preceptor. The faculty member submits the form or summary, and a copy of the incident report if available, to ONSS to be placed in the student's record.
4. The student arranges for any recommended follow-up treatment with the Student Health Center, the University Medical Center or a private physician.

Summary of Bloodborne Pathogens, Prevention, Prophylaxis and Treatment

Hepatitis B

Virus type: DNA hepadnavirus

Risk to health care workers: 30% (unvaccinated person), 6% to 62% range

Transmission: Blood, serous fluids, saliva, vaginal fluid,** semen**

Incubation period: 4 weeks to 28 weeks

Prevention: Universal precautions, Hepatitis B vaccine, HBIG

Prophylaxis*: Hepatitis B vaccine, HBIG

Treatment: Alfa-interferons, nucleosides

Hepatitis C

Virus type: RNA flavivirus

Risk to health care workers: 2% to 3% (unvaccinated person), 0% to 7% range

Transmission: Blood

Incubation period: 2 weeks to 24 weeks

Prevention: Standard precautions

Prophylaxis*: No approved post exposure prophylaxis
Treatment: Alfa-interferons in combination with ribavirin

HIV

Virus type: RNA retrovirus
Risk to health care workers: 0.3% percutaneous, 0.1% mucous membrane
Transmission: Blood, serous fluids, semen,** vaginal secretions,** breast milk**
Incubation period: 6 days to 6 weeks
Prevention: Standard precautions
Prophylaxis*: Anti-retrovirals
Treatment: Anti-retrovirals

*should be begun immediately

**These fluids are generally not associated with transmission in health care workers.

Adapted from, Twitchell, K. (2003). Bloodborne pathogens, What you need to Know – Part I. AAOHN Journal (51), 1, 38 – 46.

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**Statement Related to Incidents Involving
Blood or Blood Products-to-Blood Contact**

On _____(date) I incurred an incident involving blood or blood products-to-blood contact as detailed on the attached Incident Report and/or summary of the Incident. I _____ (was or was not) adhering to the infection control techniques required by the institution and the College of Nursing.

X

Student Signature and Date

X

Faculty/Preceptor Signature and Date

The risks associated with the incident involving blood or blood products-to-blood contact was explained to me by _____
(ER physician or Infection Control Coordinator.) I understand that it is my responsibility to seek any recommended laboratory tests and prophylaxis, including vaccines, toxoids, antitoxins, or serums that could offer me immunological protection.

X

Student Signature and Date

X

Faculty/Preceptor Signature and Date

NOTE: All costs incurred as a result of incidents involving blood or blood products-to-blood contact are the responsibility of the student. The student's signed statement of acknowledgment of this policy is on file in the Capstone College of Nursing.