

## **Exposure Control Policy**

The University of Miami's School of Nursing is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for our students. All students at the School of Nursing having exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials in a clinical capacity are covered under this policy. Students who are determined to have exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials (OPIM) must comply with the procedures and work practices outlined in this Exposure Control Policy (ECP). All students can review this plan at any time during their work shifts by accessing the online MSN or BSN student handbooks, or contacting the Associate Dean for the Master's Programs or the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs at (305) 284-3666.

## **Post-Exposure Evaluation and Follow-Up**

Should an exposure incident occur, the student should immediately notify the clinical faculty member or preceptor who is responsible for the learning experience in which the student is engaged. Again, prompt reporting of all exposures is crucial to ensure that proper medical evaluation and treatment, if applicable, is initiated in a timely manner.

Unless extraordinary circumstances are present, the clinical faculty member or preceptor shall assist the student in shedding contaminated clothing, wiping/washing off visible blood and/or body fluids and disinfecting the area exposed in an acceptable manner (i.e. a skin-approved bactericidal soap, a waterless cleaner, etc.). Care should be taken not to use abrasives or cleaners that will damage the skin. If blood and/or other body fluids are splashed in the eye or mucous membrane, flush the affected area vigorously with running water.

An immediately available confidential medical evaluation and follow-up will be conducted by the Health Care Agency to which the student is assigned. If this is not possible, the student will be seen at UHealth Workmen's Comp Clinic (305)689-5891, University of Miami Employee Health Office, Physician's Health Center, or UMH ER (305)689-5464. In the event of a life threatening emergency, call 911. Student should be taken to the nearest Emergency Room. If the Health Care Agency where the exposure incident has occurred is unable or unwilling to perform the medical evaluation, testing and/or treatment, OR if the exposure has occurred after hours or on weekends, the clinical faculty or preceptor should call the "On-Call Employee Health Nurse" at beeper #: (305) 299-4684 for further instructions. Once initial evaluation and treatment is administered, the student contacts UM Employee Health for the necessary post-exposure follow-up.

## **UM Employee Health Office Contact Information**

Office Phone Number: 305-243-3400

Pager for On-Call Employee Health Nurse: 305-299-4684 (pager for Sandra Chen- Walta)

Address: 1400 NW 10th Ave,

Dominion Tower, Suite 405

Miami, FL 33136

## Reporting of Incident

The clinical faculty member or preceptor shall assist the student in completing the "Accident Report Form" (ARF) located online at : <https://www6.miami.edu/risk-management/ACCIDENT-REPORTING-FORM.htm>

It is very important that the clinical faculty or preceptor fill this form out together with the student within 24 hours of the incident. Upon completing the ARF, the form should be printed (BEFORE SUBMITTING ONLINE TO RISK MANAGEMENT), and signed by both the clinical faculty or preceptor and the student. The clinical faculty or preceptor should then fax the signed ARF to: (305) 284-3405, Attention: Pilar Schuitema, Risk Management Office. All pertinent information may be added to the ARF as this will assist Ms. Schuitema in the follow-up management of the incidence.

The clinical faculty or preceptor should notify the Associate Dean for Undergraduate or Graduate Studies within 24 hours after the incident has occurred.

### Additional Resources:

There is a 24-hour nationwide Post Exposure Prophylaxis hotline at 1-888-HIV-4911 (1-888-448-4911) if there are any questions or concerns about the exposure incident, evaluation or treatment.

As part of the medical evaluation, the following activities may be performed:

1. Document the routes of exposure and how the exposure occurred.
2. Identify and document the source individual (unless it can be established that identification is infeasible or prohibited by state or local law).
3. Obtain consent and make arrangements to have the source individual tested as soon as possible to determine HIV, HCV, and HBV infectivity; document that the source individual's test results were conveyed to the student's health care provider.
4. If the source individual is already known to be HIV, HCV and/or HBV positive, new testing need not be performed.
5. Assure that the exposed student is provided with the source individual's test results and with information about applicable disclosure laws and regulations concerning the identity and infectious status of the source individual (e.g., laws protecting confidentiality).
6. After obtaining consent, collect exposed student's blood as soon as feasible after exposure incident, and test blood for HIV, HBV, and HCV serological status
7. If the student does not give consent for HIV serological testing during collection of blood for baseline testing, preserve the baseline blood sample for at least 90 days; if the exposed student elects to have the baseline sample tested during this waiting period, perform testing as soon as feasible.

## Costs of Post Exposure Evaluation

All costs related to the evaluation, testing and standard treatment after an exposure incident shall be covered by the University of Miami through an insurance policy maintained by the School of Nursing and Health Studies subject to limits and exclusions set forth in such policy. Costs incurred from services rendered by the UM Employee Health Office and/or other healthcare facilities that is not covered under such policy will be the responsibility of the University of Miami's School of Nursing and Health Studies.