

Nursing Program Infectious Disease Policy

Health Science Students Doing Healthcare Work:

The risk of contracting Hepatitis B virus or other infectious diseases is greater than the risk of contracting HIV, therefore recommendations for the control of Hepatitis B infections will effectively prevent the Spread of AIDS. All such recommendations are therefore incorporated herein.

1. Sharp items (needles, scalpel blades, and other sharp instruments) shall be considered as potentially infective and should be handled with extraordinary care to prevent accidental injuries. Proper disposal of sharp items according to OSHA guidelines shall be followed.
2. Disposable syringes and needles, scalpel blades, and other sharp items should be placed in puncture resistant containers located as close as possible to the area in which they are used. To prevent needle stick injuries, needles shall not be recapped, purposely bent, broken, removed from disposable syringes, or otherwise manipulated by hand.
3. When the possibility of exposure to blood or other body fluid exists, routinely recommended universal precautions should be followed. The anticipated exposure may require gloves alone, as in handling items soiled with blood or other body fluids, or may require gowns, masks, and eye coverings. When performing procedures or post-mortem examinations, hands should be washed thoroughly and immediately if they accidentally become contaminated with blood or body fluids.
4. To minimize the need for emergency mouth to mouth resuscitation, mouth-pieces, resuscitation bags, or other ventilation devices should be located and available for use in areas where the need for resuscitation is predictable.
5. Pregnant health science students or students engaged in health care are not known to be at a greater risk of contracting the HIV virus than students who are not pregnant. If a student develops infection with the HIV virus during pregnancy, however, an infant has an increased risk of infection through prenatal transmission. Because of this risk, pregnant students should be especially familiar with precautions of the HIV virus.
6. Nursing students engaged in health care who are infected with the HIV virus and who are not involved in invasive procedures need not be restricted from work unless they have some other illness for which any healthcare worker would be restricted.
7. For nursing students engages in health care that have been diagnosed as HIV positive, there is an increased danger from infection due to the disease. Students who are HIV infected are at risk of acquiring or experiencing serious complications of such diseases. Of particular concern is the risk of severe infection following exposure to patients with easily transmitted infectious diseases (e.g. tuberculosis or chicken pox). HIV infected students will be counseled about potential risks associated with exposure to or taking care of patients with transmissible infections and should continue to follow universal precautions to minimize their risk of exposure to other agents.
8. The nursing student's physician, in conjunction with the appropriate school official, will determine on an individual basis whether the student who is HIV positive, with symptoms, can adequately and safely perform patient care.
9. A student with an infectious disease who cannot control bodily secretions, and students who have uncoverable oozing lesions, will not be permitted to participate in health care services. The determination of whether an infected student should be excluded from providing health care shall be made on a case-by-case basis by the student's physician and the appropriate school officials.
10. Students who are exposed to infectious body fluids in the clinical area must report to the clinical instructor immediately. The hospital shall be notified and the hospital protocol for such exposure followed.

I have read and understand this policy

Signature _____ Date: _____