Protocol for Students who are Exposed to Blood or Body Fluids while Enrolled at the University of Iowa

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to delineate a clear mechanism by which all University of Iowa students can receive immediate evaluation, testing, initiation of necessary prophylaxis, and follow-up for exposures to blood and body fluids. This includes any exposure to blood/body fluids that may occur in such locations as residence halls, classrooms, and health care settings.

These recommendations were not developed to address sexual exposures. Certain sexual exposures may warrant individual consideration of this protocol.

Policy

The University of Iowa Student Health & Wellness will provide initial screening, evaluation, testing, and initiation of necessary prophylaxis, follow-up, and referral when indicated for students who have had an exposure to blood or body fluids. In this process, Student Health & Wellness will rely on the student’s supervisor for information on the source; will consult with other caregivers when the student chooses or is located off-campus; and will consult with the Division of Infectious Diseases (Internal Medicine) as needed and for annual program review.

Definition

Possible blood borne exposures: any student having exposure to blood or other body fluid should contact Student Health & Wellness as soon as possible. Possible exposure to a blood borne pathogen will include: injury by a contaminated needle (e.g. non-sterile, used needle), any contaminated sharps injury, exposure to an individual’s blood or other body fluids to non-intact skin, eye, nose, or mouth, or through a human bite that breaks the skin.

Procedure

Student will:

- Immediately wash/irigate area thoroughly.
- Identify source (patient).
- Inform supervisor or other responsible person in unit/agency.
- Telephone Student Health & Wellness nurse - (319) 335-8392 - for screening and advice. If Student Health & Wellness is closed, telephone UIHC-ETC - (319) 356-2233, and ask to speak to the ETC triage nurse/staff physician.
- Report to Student Health & Wellness or other provider off-campus as advised by the Student Health & Wellness triage nurse.
- Report to VA Medical Center Employee Health for immediate work-up if exposure occurred there.
- Complete the agency’s Incident Report, and, when applicable, State of Iowa Employers Work Injury Report (if forms not available at site, may be faxed by Student Health & Wellness).

Complete Follow-up:

- If off-campus, send completed forms and completed treatment records back to Student Health & Wellness within one week, or as soon as possible.
- Accept responsibility for follow-up needs of incident.
**Student Health & Wellness will:**
- See student on priority basis.
- Initiate additional wound care as needed.
- Provide care and treatment whenever necessary according to policy as modified from UIHC Infection Control Policy 501 *Protocol for Evaluation and Treatment of Hospital Staff Members Potentially Exposed to BloodBorne Pathogens* and in consultation with Division of Infectious Disease.
- Make appointments for initial follow-up visits if indicated prior to the student leaving the clinic.
- Make arrangements to notify the exposed student of source patient lab results and his/her own baseline lab results.
- Complete and file forms as required.
- Provide student with education regarding need for follow-up visits for counseling and testing, how to avoid future exposures, symptoms of possible infection, safer sex practices.
- Review program yearly with Division of Infectious Diseases.

**Student Health & Wellness Nurse/ETC will:**
- Evaluate incident to determine level of risk and referral level need.
- Communicate with student and supervisor as necessary regarding immediate care, referral and follow-up needs.
- Fax essential form(s) to student if student is off-campus or does not have forms.

**Student’s Supervisor/Attending M.D./Preceptor will:**
- Provide release time for student as necessary.
- Investigate source person
  - If attending M.D. refuses to test source patient, student health service provider/nursing staff will telephone on-call epidemiology physician to request assistance.
- Communicate information on source person to student health service nurse.
- If off-campus, identify local treatment center to provide initial work-up and follow-up care following Student Health & Wellness protocol.

**If seen at ETC, ETC will:**
- Follow the same protocol for immediate evaluation and care as used by Student Health & Wellness.
- Access student immunization history through the EMR.
- Transfer the student to Student Health & Wellness for follow-up care.

**For students receiving training at College of Dentistry (COD):**
- Evaluation to be done at Student Health & Wellness.
- Source patient’s blood sample to be tested immediately at COD with results faxed to Student Health & Wellness.

Additional information on the Student Health & Wellness website [http://studenthealth.uiowa.edu/](http://studenthealth.uiowa.edu/)

The website contains protocol for students with possible bloodborne pathogen exposure including flowcharts for medical students, nursing students, UI Health Science students, all UI students. There is also a link to the Standard Precautions Educational sheet.