

UTHSCSA Graduate Medical Education Policies

Section 7	Health & Wellness	Effective:	April 2001
		Revised:	
Policy 7.1.	Blood-Borne Pathogen Exposure	Responsibility:	Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education

Blood-Borne Pathogen Exposure

Policy

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures that ensure compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards regarding blood-borne pathogen exposure. The term blood-borne pathogen refers to pathogenic microorganisms present in human blood that can cause disease in humans. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Potentially infectious materials include, but are not limited to, such human body fluids as blood, semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pericardial fluid, pleural fluid, peritoneal fluid, amniotic fluid, saliva, any body fluid that is potentially contaminated with blood, and all body fluids in situations where it is difficult or impossible to differentiate between body fluids; any unfixed tissue or organ (other than intact skin) from a human being, either living or dead; and virus containing cells, tissue cultures, or organ cultures, virus containing culture medium or other solutions, and blood, organs, or other tissues from experimental animals infected with a virus.

Each patient care site to which residents are assigned should have a written blood-borne pathogen disease exposure policy. This policy should be available to all residents at that training site and should be readily accessible 24 hours a day. These policies should provide for timely medical consultation upon potential exposure to a blood-borne pathogen, including the ready and timely availability of post-exposure prophylaxis. In sites where immediate access to appropriate therapy is not available to a resident, he/she should sign a waiver prior to the beginning of the rotation.

All residents should be instructed in the use of universal precautions as established by the Centers for Disease Control (<http://www.cdc.gov/>). All residents must use appropriate universal precautions when there is risk of blood-borne pathogen disease exposure.

All residents who have contact with potentially infectious body fluids, organs, tissues, or laboratory materials should be immunized against hepatitis B or demonstrate immunity through serologic testing.

The policies on blood-borne pathogen disease exposure at the various sites to which residents rotate should be made available to the residents at the time of their orientation and/or prior to their rotation to those

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various clinical sites.