

## **Exposure to Blood Borne Pathogens Guidelines for Stritch School of Medicine Students:**

This document establishes the procedures and financial obligations students face if they may have been exposed to blood borne pathogens (BBP) through blood or other body fluids (by a needle stick, cut, splash, bite or other method of exposure). Since some prophylaxis is most effective if given immediately after exposure, it is to your benefit to immediately report this exposure and take the following actions without delay. While the exact reporting procedure may be different depending on the clinical site where you are exposed, the first two steps are the same.

### **IF THE EXPOSURE OCCURS AT LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER (LUMC):**

- 1. Wash needlestick or sharps injuries and cuts immediately with soap and water. Flush splashes to the nose, mouth, or skin with water. Irrigate eyes with clean water, saline or sterile irrigants.**
2. Notify your supervisor and charge nurse of the clinical area and ask them to source test the patient (to ensure blood is drawn immediately on the source patient).
3. Contact the Loyola Outpatient Center (LOC) Employee and Student Health Clinic at 708 216-3156. Ask to speak to a nurse to report an exposure. You will be instructed to come to the LOC Employee and Student Health Clinic at 2160 S. 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, at the south end of the Medical Center Campus to complete the reporting process and check the source testing results.
- 4. If your exposure happens after hours or on weekends or holidays you should report to Loyola University Medical Center Emergency Department (LUMC ED). When your visit in the LUMC ED is complete, you MUST leave a message on the secure voicemail for Loyola Employee and Student Health Service at 708-216-2458 stating the following information:**
  - a. Your name
  - b. Your date of birth
  - c. The name of the patient who was the source of your exposure
  - d. The source patient's medical record number
  - e. Your return telephone number where you can be reached
5. If you have your blood drawn in the LUMC ED you will still need to complete an Exposure report and complete a Patient Safety Event under the Patient Safety Event Reporting tab at Loyola Wired. The Loyola Employee and Student Health nurse will assist you with questions about these documents.

The cost of the initial ED treatment will be waived if the student reports the incident to the SHS within 72 hours of the occurrence. Failure to do so will result in the cost being your responsibility. You will be asked for your insurance card upon registration in the ED but charges will only be sent to the insurance company if you fail to notify the SHS.

### **IF THE EXPOSURE OCCURS AT A CLERKSHIP OR ROTATION SITE AWAY FROM LUMC:**

- 1. Wash needlestick or sharps injuries and cuts immediately with soap and water. Flush splashes to the nose, mouth, or skin with water. Irrigate eyes with clean water, saline or sterile irrigants.**
2. Notify your supervisor and charge nurse of the clinical area and ask them to source test the patient (to ensure blood is drawn immediately on the source patient).
3. Contact the site's employee/occupational health service immediately.
4. If the site does not have the above service or it is closed, go to the site's designated Emergency Department.
- 5. FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE AT AN AWAY SITE'S DESIGNATED EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT, YOU MUST PROVIDE YOUR INSURANCE INFORMATION.**
6. Leave the same information from #4 (above) on the Loyola Employee and Student Health 708-216-2458, **including** the name of the institution and its location.

If you are billed by the site, the initial co-pay for treatment and source testing can be covered by Student Affairs if appropriate documentation is provided and all reporting and protocols are followed. Follow up care through Student Health Services is covered 100%. Students seeking follow up care elsewhere may do so using their insurance and are responsible for bills thereafter.