Policy Title: Post Exposure Care

Policy Number: EC.12.04.170815

Applies to: All ESFCOM Medical Students

Date: 8/15/2017

1.0 Policy Statement:
It is the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine (ESFCOM) policy to provide the infrastructure and support that enables, and requires, medical students to take immediate action following exposure or incident that results in the need for medical treatment.

2.0 Definitions:
Exposure: State of being exposed to contact with a pathogen
Pathogen: A bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that can cause disease.
Incident: An event or occurrence of contact with pathogens i.e. needle stick, eye splash, cuts, and burns.
Medical Treatment: Care provided by healthcare personnel or physician to manage post exposure.
Immediate: Done at once; nearest time.

3.0 Responsibilities:
Medical Student
Faculty at Sites of Clinical Rotations
Office of Student Affairs

4.0 Procedures
The steps a medical student follows in the event of any exposure to a potential infectious topical, blood borne or airborne infectious agent.

Medical Students
Immediate actions:
1. First aid and initial care at the site where the injury occurred and a decision by medical personnel as to whether Urgent Care is needed.
2. Record detailed description of the exposure (type of injury or exposure, instrument involved, type of fluid, location of injury and setting).
3. Record patient demographic data.
4. Notify key clinical personnel at the site.

Actions within two hours:
1. Evaluation of risk by a physician to consider laboratory testing, treatment, referral or other appropriate actions for the safety and protection of the student, and others who may be at risk.
2. Decisions regarding need and recommended follow up for treatment, testing, referral(s).

**Actions within 24 hours:**
1. Complete an incident report.
2. Notify the Office of Student Affairs of the incident.
3. Referral to the nearest hospital emergency department, local health clinic or to the student's physician for further diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up if needed.

**Responsibilities of faculty at clinical sites**
1. Provisions for the care of students who sustain needle-stick injuries, eye splashes, cuts, burns or other exposures are to be supervised by faculty at clinical sites.
2. Associate Deans for Clinical Education will be responsible for informing clinical faculty and residents about ESFCOM’s post exposure policy.

**Financial Responsibility**

Medical evaluation and management costs post exposure:
1. The health and wellness fees paid by students will cover the first three days (72 hours) of evaluation, counseling, and post-exposure treatment for incidents.
2. After 72 hours, students will be responsible for any other costs related to the incident.
3. ESFCOM will strongly encourage students to have health care insurance that may assist with additional costs.
4. Students will notify their clinical site faculty and the Office of Student Affairs of financial issues pertaining to the pathogen exposure.
5. If the training site outside the Spokane area cannot absorb the costs, students will contact the Office of Student Affairs in order to receive assistance in follow-up.
6. For students needing supplement financial assistance, the ESFCOM will reimburse the student up to $300 per case.
7. To receive this supplement, students must submit a medical insurance claim no more than 90 days after claim is processed.

**Office of Student Affairs Support**

If ESFCOM medical students have unanswered questions or need additional support, they will contact:
1. During work hours, (8am-5pm), Office of Student Affairs and ask for one of the staff.
2. After hours, the ESFCOM Faculty on Call

The following forms are available on the WSU Student Health website:

[https://spokane.wsu.edu/studentaffairs/health-and-wellness/](https://spokane.wsu.edu/studentaffairs/health-and-wellness/)
- Blood Borne Pathogens Campus Student Procedures (pdf)
- Blood Borne Pathogens Abbreviated Procedures (pdf)
- Report an accident
5.0 **Related Policies:**
EC.12.05.170516 - Immunizations and Tuberculosis Screening Policy
EC.12.07.170815 - Communicable Disease Policy
EC.12.06.170815 - Medical Student Training on Universal Precautions and Biohazards

6.0 **Key Search Words**
Exposure, incident, urgent care

7.0 **Revision History**

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**Responsible Office:** ESFCOM Office of Student Affairs.

**Policy Contact:** Associate Dean for Student Affairs

**Supersedes:** N/A