



STUDENT'S WITH POSSIBLE OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE---- RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

- Post-exposure evaluation and follow-up following an exposure incident will be discussed with and encouraged for any student who encounters an exposure incident while performing duties in his/her classroom/lab/clinic settings. All medical evaluations and procedures are at the student's expense. Medical Insurance is highly recommended for any students taking classes and/or programs that place them in a high occupational risk environment. Some programs may mandate medical insurance as part of the curriculum. Students not having a medical doctor will be assisted in getting medical attention. Students in a clinical situation will follow the protocols of the facility and obtain evaluation there.

A. Post-exposure Evaluation and Follow-Up

- In the event of a possible exposure incident with blood or OPIM (Other Potentially Infectious Material), the student is to immediately wash any skin with soap and water and flush mucous membranes with water.
- The student will immediately report the event to his/her instructor present or his/her proctor.
- The student should immediately (**preferably within 1 hour but no later than 24 hours**) seek medical attention. An exposure incident requires immediate attention as the effectiveness of the prophylaxis depends on timely delivery. **It is imperative to begin treatment within 24 hours of exposure.**
- Follow-up procedure should include a confidential medical evaluation with documentation including the circumstances of exposure, identifying and testing the source individual if feasible, testing the exposed student's blood with consent, post-exposure prophylaxis, counseling and evaluation of reported illness.
- Counseling should be provided prior to tests being run. It will include precautions to take during the period following exposure, information on potential diseases and symptoms, and being informed to report any related illnesses to the Healthcare Provider.
- To facilitate the evaluation, the Healthcare provider must be given specific information including circumstances of exposure, route of exposure, the student's Hepatis B vaccine status, other relevant medical information, and if indicated and possible the information on the source person. A written opinion within 15 days of the completion of the evaluation will be provided by the healthcare provider to the student.
- The healthcare professional's written opinion for HBV vaccination should be limited to whether HBV is indicated and/or has been received by the student.
- The written opinion for post-exposure follow-up should include information to the student of the results of the evaluation and any medical condition resulting from the exposure which requires further evaluation or treatment.
- Tests for the student should include but may not be limited to HBV, HCV and HIV.
- The blood of the source individual should be tested for HIV, HCV and HBV only after consent is given for the testing and release of information is obtained. If this individual is another student he/she will be responsible for his/her own bills.
- All findings and diagnosis will remain confidential.