

Blood and Body Fluid/Needle stick Exposure

Policy Adopted for BUCOM 9/29/2022

Policy Information			
Policy# :	STU.5003	Reviewed Date(s):	10/05; 09/22
Date Created:	April 20, 1999	Revised Date(s):	11/03; 9/04; 6/12; 4/13; 6/16; 9/19 (procedure only); 06/20; 09/22
Responsible College Administrator:	VP of Enrollment Management & Student Affairs	President Council Approved Date:	9.29.22

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To promote student health and safety.
- 1.2. To provide appropriate counseling and follow-up, and help allay exposed student's concern.

2. Policy

- 2.1. Students are aware of the risks associated with the clinical experience which include, but are not limited to, physical or psychological injury, pain, suffering, disease transmission, illness, temporary or permanent disability, economic or emotional loss, and/or death. By participating in the clinical experiences, students acknowledge they have been made aware of risks, known or unknown, associated with or attributable to their clinical experiences including, but not limited to, the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2.2. Professional licensing requirements established by the State of Tennessee and/or national accreditation/certification standards require all students to participate in a specified number of clinical hours involving direct patient care. If students choose not to participate in the clinical experiences for any reason, including the COVID-19 pandemic, their academic progression may be delayed.
- 2.3. All students, who sustain percutaneous or mucosal exposure to blood or body fluids during classroom, laboratory and clinical activities will be provided evaluation and follow-up.
- 2.4. All students who sustain percutaneous or mucosal exposures to blood or body fluids should be evaluated promptly. Post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) exposure should be initiated within 1 - 2 hours post-exposure.

3. Definitions

- 3.1. None.

4. Procedure

- 4.1. Student will report exposure to faculty member and appropriate representative of agency. The agency's Infection Control/Employee Health Nurse is to be notified so that patient evaluation can begin.
- 4.2. Should a needle-stick or other possible exposure occur, the student will wash the area well with soap and water. For mucous membrane exposure, rinse the area thoroughly with water or saline.
- 4.3. Faculty will complete agency's unusual occurrence/incident form.

- 4.4. Faculty will notify the nearest Baptist Minor Med facility of the occurrence. The Minor Med will provide counseling and follow-up appropriate in the injury. If a Baptist Minor Med facility is not available in the location of the clinical experience, students are to report to the nearest urgent/emergency care facility.
- 4.5. If the exposure occurs after hours, on a weekend or holiday, the faculty member will report to the facility's Employee Health Office or Emergency Department. It is very important that these procedures are followed as students are responsible for any bills incurred from other agencies outside of the Baptist Minor Med.
- 4.6. Faculty will notify the appropriate dean of the occurrence.
- 4.7. Faculty will request the dean or their designee to complete an electronic occurrence report (EOR) for Baptist University.
- 4.8. Students are strongly encouraged to maintain health insurance while enrolled at the University and are responsible for out-of-pocket expenses related to exposure. Students enrolled in the Baptist University College of Osteopathic Medicine are required to maintain health insurance.

5. Related Information

- 5.1. None.