

UAMS Academic Affairs Policy - 1.4.1



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES

Policy: University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Division of Academic Affairs
Subject: Student Needle Stick/Sharps Injuries and Blood/Fluid Exposure
Number: 1.4.1

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PURPOSE

This document outlines the policy and procedures to follow when a student experiences a needle stick/sharp injury, blood/body fluid exposure when fulfilling requirements of a University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences education program. Regardless of where an incident occurs, students should be evaluated IMMEDIATELY. If indicated, chemoprophylaxis should be started as soon as possible, ideally within 2 hours.

SCOPE

All students enrolled in University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences education programs.

POLICY

All students who experience a blood/body fluid exposure while carrying out clinical/experiential requirements of their education program should be evaluated for the need for chemoprophylaxis and monitoring regardless of the type of exposure or risk status of the source patient. Procedures for students who suffer parenteral (e.g. needle stick or cut) or mucous membrane (e.g., splash to the eye, nose or mouth) exposure to blood or other body fluids, or who have a cutaneous exposure involving blood or prolonged contact with blood—especially when exposed skin is chapped, abraded, or afflicted with dermatitis -- are described according to the practice site location where the incident occurs.

- For incidents that occur at the UAMS Medical Center, the applicable policy, HR.4.01, may be found in Compliance 360.
- For incidents that occur at **OFF-CAMPUS** locations, the site-specific procedures for handling a needle stick or blood/body fluid exposure as established by that site/facility

UAMS Academic Affairs Policy - 1.4.1

are in effect and may vary slightly from UAMS procedures. However, general requirements for notification, evaluation, and documentation are outlined.

Reporting

UAMS students will follow all procedures detailed in the UAMS policy HR.4.01 located in Compliance 360. The central points for students who experience a parenteral, mucous membrane, or cutaneous exposure to a blood/body fluid are:

1. All students, regardless of location, should report the incident **IMMEDIATELY** to their clinical supervisor or instructor, appropriate college administrator and the Preventive Occupational Environmental Medicine Clinic (POEM – open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) at 501-686-6565. After hours, weekends and holidays, exposed individuals should contact the POEM Clinic on-call nurse at 501-398-8636 for evaluation.
2. The amount of risk incurred as a result of the exposure must be evaluated and prophylactic treatment should be started as soon as possible, ideally within 2 hours to be effective; therefore, students should seek evaluation and treatment IMMEDIATELY.
3. Students should familiarize themselves with local procedures for needle sticks, splash and other injuries. Some sites may require site-specific training prior to the student entering the facility. However, if this information is not covered, students should educate themselves regarding local procedures.
4. Complete the UAMS Incident and Injury (I&I) Report form available at <http://www.uams.edu/campusop/depts/ohs/forms/accident.aspx>
 - a. Information about the source patient shall be documented on the Incident and Injury (I&I) report form by the nursing supervisor or his/her designee from which the source patient is receiving care. The I&I form shall accompany or be forwarded to the student to SEHS or the ED at the time of the initial evaluation.
 - b. It is the responsibility of the clinical supervisor or instructor to make sure that all information relevant to the incident has been completed on the I&I form and the student has called POEM Nurse for triage.
 - c. It is the responsibility of the Nursing Supervisor or designee to record all information regarding the source patient on the I&I report form, notify either SEHS or the ED with the risk factors for HIV and ensure that orders are written for lab work on the source patient's chart.

Students who perform tasks that may involve exposure to blood and body fluids are required to complete annual blood borne pathogen training and have on file with Student and Employee Health a reactive Hepatitis B titer. The training compliance will be tracked through UAMS My Compass.

Post exposure Prophylaxis with Antiretroviral Agents: Under certain circumstances, it is recommended that individuals exposed to HIV through injury, etc., be offered combinations of anti-HIV medications for four weeks while surveillance laboratory monitoring is taking place. This process will be coordinated through Student/Employee Health (SEHS) and the POEM clinics, so it is important that any such exposure be reported to SEHS as quickly as possible.

UAMS Academic Affairs Policy - 1.4.1

Billing: Students who have a blood/body fluid exposure shall be evaluated by POEM Clinic/SEHS or the Emergency Department (ED) and are required to complete an I&I Report form. All UAMS students are required to maintain a health insurance policy, which will be billed for services related to evaluation, treatment and monitoring. Deductible and co-pay costs not covered by the student's health insurance policy will be the responsibility of the student's primary college. Insured students will bear no out-of-pocket expenses.

In cases where a person is both a student and an employee, the role the person was fulfilling at the time of the incident will determine billing, so that if the person was carrying out student requirements, rules governing billing of care related to students will be in effect. If the person was carrying out employment related duties, the UAMS Medical Center employee policy will be applied.

References

UAMS Medical Center Policy, Number: HR.4.01, Needlestick/Sharps Injuries and Blood/Body Fluid Exposure, UAMS Administrative Guide, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Employee/Student Injury and Incident Report,

Form: <http://www.uams.edu/campusop/depts/ohs/forms/accident.aspx>

Blood Born Pathogen training – My Compass

https://uams.sumtotal.host/Core/pillarRedirect?relyingParty=LM&url=https:%2F%2FUAMS.sumtotal.host%2Flearning%2Fapp%2Fmanagement%2FLMS_ActDetails.aspx%3FActivityId%3D285%26UserMode%3D0

UAMS Medical Center, Billing Statement