University of Colorado School of Medicine

Hazardous Exposure Policy

Policy Statement:
The University of Colorado School of Medicine requires that all students complete training that addresses exposure to infectious, environmental, and blood borne pathogens, as required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The training delineates who is at risk, the methods for preventing and reducing exposures, and procedures for care and treatment after exposure. This training is required prior to starting clinical experiences within the program.

Rationale:
As a training school and health care facility, it is important that we understand our obligation to our patient population and ourselves in regards to basic infection control and occupational safety and health standards.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s (OSHA) Blood borne Pathogen Standard (29 CFR 1910.1030) applies to persons who have the potential for exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials. Personnel who require this training include any person who, in the normal course of his or her job, has the potential for exposure to blood, body fluids, body tissues or sharps. Because of their clinical experiences, this includes health professions students.


Training Process:
• All students enrolled in School of Medicine Programs will receive information about the requirement for hazardous material training, deadlines for compliance, and results reporting. Annual verification and timing of this training may vary by educational program.

• Students will receive specific instructions from their program representatives regarding training information and instructions.

• Students must complete and pass hazardous material training prior to starting clinical experiences within their specific program.
• This training will include:
  o Location of a copy of the Blood Borne Pathogens Standard
  o General explanation of the epidemiology, routes of transmission, and symptoms of blood borne pathogens and diseases
  o Review of the exposure plan
  o Recognition of possible exposures to blood borne pathogens
  o Explanation of engineering controls and safe work practices
  o Education on the proper selection, use, location, and decontamination or disposal of Personal Protective Equipment
  o Procedure for post-exposure reporting and follow-up
  o Significance of signs, labels, and color codes as applied to infectious hazards

• Training compliance and results will be tracked and recorded in an internal database within each education program and maintained only for the duration of study for each student.

• Completion of training may be reported to clinical rotation sites for clinical placements in compliance with contractual agreements

**Additional Policy/Procedure Information:**

• Universal Precautions will be used by all students who may be subjected to blood or body fluids

• All students are required to follow appropriate infection control procedures where there is a risk of parenteral, mucous membrane, or cutaneous exposure to blood, body fluids, or aerosolized secretions from any patient, irrespective of the perceived risk of exposure

• Students will wear appropriate personal protective equipment in situations where exposure to blood, body fluids or environmental hazards are possible

• Students with needle stick or other training-related injuries or illness, environmental or blood born pathogen exposures will follow regulations and protocols established by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (http://www.osha.gov/index.html) and the University of Colorado Risk Management (https://www.cu.edu/risk)
Implementation Plan

In compliance with programmatic licensing bodies, University of Colorado will address medical student exposure to infectious and environmental hazards, including:

• The education of students about methods of prevention
• The procedures for care and treatment after exposure, including a definition of financial responsibility
• The effects of infectious and environmental disease or disability on student learning activities

All registered students will be informed of these policies before undertaking any education activities that would place them at risk.

Hazardous Materials Training Plan:

• Module Objectives:
  o Identify workplace hazards
  o Respond to a hazardous exposure
  o Identify and use container labeling
  o Understand the new OSHA Global Harmonization program
  o Access and use Safety Data Sheets (SDS)
  o Use Personal Protective Equipment and Emergency Equipment

• Module created and managed by University of Colorado Hospital in compliance with OSHA and Joint Commission
• Updates to module will be managed by University Hospital
• Will be available electronically for access by all students
• Required completion of module annually
• Tracking of completion by program offices
• Students not able to begin or continue clinical activities until satisfactory completion of module

Bloodborne Pathogen Training Plan:

• Module Objectives:
  o Identify important blood borne pathogens and how they are spread, increasing risk to healthcare workers.
  o List important safeguards against blood borne pathogen exposure that will improve healthcare worker safety.
  o Identify what to do if you are exposed to a blood borne
pathogen that will increase healthcare worker safety.

- Module offered and managed through Healthstream
- Updates to module managed by Healthstream
- Students will be enrolled in module through UCD Human Resources (Learning and Development, enrolled through student network ID number)
- Required completion of the module annually
- Tracking of completion by program offices
- Students not able to begin or continue clinical activities until satisfactory completion of the module

Approved by UME - Clinical Requirements Committee, June 3, 2014
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