

## BLOOD BORNE PATHOGEN EXPOSURE CHECKLIST

### Exposures at Non-MUSC Clinical Sites

**(Students on clinical rotations at Roper Hospital, Trident Hospital, Affiliated Local Clinical Sites, Out of Town Clinical Sites, etc.)**

- Immediate First Aid of Injury
- Report Exposure to Supervisor
- Ensure that **Source Patient's** blood be tested immediately (HIV results determined < 2 hours)
- Documentation of Exposure
  - Complete the necessary documentation required by the affiliated healthcare facility
  - Complete the MUSC Blood Borne Pathogen Assessment Form
  - Complete the online MUSC ACORD Form
- Follow Up of Exposure
  - Forward (FAX or hand deliver) baseline lab results from the Source Patient to Student Health
  - A provider at Student Health can review with the student (office visit or phone consultation) the details of the exposure and source lab results.
  - For exposures to patients with (+) serology for blood borne pathogens, Student Health can continue management of post-exposure antiviral prophylaxis and/or perform any necessary follow up lab testing on the student per MUSC protocol.

**See following pages for details on the steps to follow**

## MUSC Student Blood/Body Fluid Exposure (Non-MUSC Clinical Site)

Students who sustain a blood borne pathogen exposure while engaged in clinical activities at a medical facility outside MUSC are to follow that institution's Blood Borne Pathogen policy (per your college's Affiliation Agreement with that institution or provider). MUSC will provide follow up management of blood borne pathogen exposures that occur at outside institutions if the exposure occurred during a clinical activity that is required by your college.

Students who participate in non-MUSC sponsored volunteer activities (medical mission work, health fairs, etc.) that are outside the required coursework are strongly encouraged to ensure there is a blood borne pathogen exposure protocol in place by the sponsor of that activity, as they will be responsible for the management and expense of any potential exposures.

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**Exposures to blood, visibly bloody body fluids, tissue, or \*potentially infectious fluids (CSF, Synovial, Pericardial, Peritoneal, Pleural, Amniotic, Semen, Vaginal Secretions):**

### 1. TREATMENT OF EXPOSURE – Immediate:

- **Percutaneous Injuries** (punctures, lacerations) – Wash with Soap and Water for 5 minutes.
- **Non-intact Skin** (open abrasions, cuts). Intact skin is an effective barrier and contact with blood does not need to be reported. Wash with Soap and Water for 5 minutes.
- **Mucous membranes** (splashes to eyes, mouth, etc.): Flush extensively with water or saline for 15 minutes.

***AVOID chemical cleansers that irritate the skin (Alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, Betadine or other chemical cleansers). Avoid "milking" or squeezing out needle stick injuries or wounds. Squeezing the wound merely increases blood flow to the exposure site and potentially increasing the risk of systemic exposure if viral pathogens are present in the source fluid.***

***\* Unless visibly bloody, these body fluids (feces, nasal secretions, saliva, sputum, sweat, tears, urine, vomitus) are not considered infectious for blood borne pathogens.***

### 2. Notify Your Supervisor of Exposure

Notify your immediate supervisor of the exposure **after** completing emergency First Aid to the exposure site.

## **Affiliated Healthcare Facility Responsibilities:**

**For students receiving clinical training at affiliated healthcare facilities, their college should ensure that these sites provide a safe environment and have a clearly defined BBP protocol in place to ensure timely management of all occupational exposures. This includes provision of:**

1. Personal Protective Equipment appropriate for the procedure.
2. Proper 'engineering controls' to minimize risk of occupational exposure to sharps (self-sheathing needles, sharps disposal containers, etc.).
3. Appropriate supervision of the student during any exposure prone procedure.
4. Qualified individual to conduct the initial assessment of the exposure (assess the nature of the exposure and body fluid involved, determine if an exposure took place, review the medical history of the source patient, facilitate appropriate lab testing, etc.).
5. Immediate testing of the source patient's blood for blood borne pathogens (Rapid HIV results on the source patient should be known within 1-2 hours after the exposure).
6. Initiation of anti-viral prophylaxis within 1-2 hours of the exposure should be available when indicated for exposures to HIV + source patients or offered in situations when there will be a delay in determining the HIV status of the source.
7. When follow up of the exposed student is necessary, the affiliated healthcare facility will provide MUSC Student Health Services with the necessary documentation on the source patient (lab test results, medical history).
8. Students who are in the Charleston area can have any necessary follow up testing performed at MUSC Student Health Services (per MUSC protocol) the next working day and do not need to have these labs performed at the affiliated institution.

## **Responsibilities of MUSC:**

1. Ensure that the MUSC student meets the occupational immunization requirements of the affiliated healthcare institution/facility.
2. Provide the Affiliated Medical Facility with documentation of the student's immunization status (including Hepatitis B Surface Antibody) on request.
3. Provide any necessary follow up management of the student.

## **3. LAB Testing:**

**Source Patient:** It is essential that the **SOURCE Patient's Blood** be tested for HIV as soon as possible (ideally within an hour) after an exposure. If the source patient is known to be HIV + (or Rapid HIV test is +), then prophylactic medications should be initiated within 1-2 hours of the exposure. Results for other blood borne pathogens on the source patient (Hepatitis B Surface Antigen [HBsAg] and Hepatitis C Virus Antibody [HCV Ab] should be known within 24 -48 hours.

**Student Lab Testing:** Testing the source patient's blood for blood borne pathogens is the most important laboratory procedure that needs to be performed after an exposure. Immediate lab testing of the student's blood is not necessary after most exposures. See **Student Follow Up of Exposure** below.

## 4. Documentation of Exposure

- Complete the documentation per the protocol of the healthcare facility.
- Complete the online MUSC ACORD form: <https://www.carc.musc.edu/acord/>  
In the event of a Blood Borne Occupational Exposure, students who are engaged in required clinical coursework and are functioning in a healthcare provider capacity are covered under South Carolina Workers Comp, just as an employee would be covered. It is important to document the exposure by completing an online ACORD Form.
  - Click on the link: “Online ACORD Form”
  - Use your MUSC ID and password.
  - For “Employer” there is a drop down menu - > Click “MUSC Student” and complete the form.
- Source Patient’s Lab Results – if follow up management of the exposure is necessary, have the institution forward the results of source patient’s labs (HIV, HBsAg, HCV Ab) to MUSC Student Health Services by secure FAX (843-792-2318).
- Complete the MUSC Blood Borne Pathogen Exposure Assessment Form (attached) and FAX to MUSC Student Health (842-792-2318). The qualified provider who is managing the exposure at your affiliated clinical site should guide collection of the essential information on the source patient, which includes:
  - Patient: Name, Date of Birth, Medical Record Number. Known Health Conditions (HIV, Hepatitis C, Hepatitis B), Risk Factors (Blood transfusions prior to 1986, IV Drug Abuse, Incarceration, High Risk Sexual Behavior, etc.).
  - Exposure: Time of Exposure, Type of Exposure (Splash, Puncture, Laceration), Site of Exposure, Depth of Injury, Body fluid involved, instrument involved, Visible Blood on Instrument, Personal Protective Equipment Used (Single/Double Gloved, Protective Eyewear), Length of time from exposure to washing injury site, narrative of events that led to the exposure.
  - Source Patient is Known HIV (+): Previous and current antiviral regimens, last HIV Viral Load, Name of Healthcare Provider who manages their condition.
- **Student Follow Up of Exposure**: Students who sustain a blood borne pathogen exposure while performing clinical activities off the MUSC campus and require immediate management are to follow the protocol of the affiliated healthcare facility. Students in Charleston can call Student Health (843)792-3664 for phone consultation during normal clinic hours for the following clinical scenarios:

**Source Patient With Negative Serology**: When source patient’s tests are negative for blood borne pathogens (HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C), then immediate baseline lab testing on the student is not necessary in most cases. If the student wishes to document their baseline serologic status (HIV, HCV) after an exposure, these labs can be drawn at Student Health Services within 2 days of the exposure. A negative test (HIV or HCV) at the time of the exposure will only demonstrate that the exposed student was not previously infected. It will not determine whether or not viral transmission occurred from the exposure. It is mandatory for all MUSC students to have received the hepatitis B vaccine series prior to clinical coursework and have a post-vaccine Hepatitis B Surface Antibody titer (HBsAb) to determine if they developed the desired immunity from the vaccine series. If this HBsAb is positive/immune, then this test **does not** need to be repeated in the event of a subsequent exposure (and doing so may incur unnecessary expense to the student and/or institution). MUSC students can view their immunizations and antibody titers @ <https://lifenet.musc.edu> using their MUSC Net ID and password.

## Follow up When the Source is (+) for a Blood Borne Pathogen:

- **Exposure to HIV (+) Source Patient:** The risk of HIV transmission from a percutaneous exposure (needle stick, puncture wound, etc.) is estimated to be 3 in 1,000; transmission risk of a blood splash to the mucus membranes (eye, nose, mouth) is lower (~ 1 in 1,000). Early studies in the 1990's showed reduced maternal-infant transmission of HIV from 25% to 8% with a single antiviral agent (ZDV). Combinations of multiple newer antiviral agents have reduced perinatal HIV transmission to < 2%, and it is inferred that similar efficacy can be achieved with immediate initiation of post-exposure prophylaxis. When indicated, anti-viral medication should ideally be started on the exposed student within 2 hours of the exposure, and continued for 28 days. Students in Charleston who sustain an exposure to an HIV + source when Student Health is open should immediately call the clinic (843)792-3664 for management instructions. Documentation of the exposure and results of the source patient's labwork can be sent to a secure FAX at Student Health (843)792-2318. It is the responsibility of the affiliated clinical site to manage exposures that occur after hours or when the student is not in Charleston. Students can follow up at Student Health for any necessary management when they return to Charleston.
- **Exposure to Source with active Hepatitis C Infection** – When the source patient is infected with hepatitis C, then the risk of Hepatitis C transmission from a percutaneous injury is estimated to be close to 0.2%, though may be higher from a hollow-bore needle. There is 0 % chance of hepatitis C transmission from a mucocutaneous splash. Post-exposure prophylaxis is not currently recommended for persons sustaining a BBP exposure from a source infected with hepatitis C. The exposed student should have a baseline hepatitis C antibody and ALT drawn within a few days of the exposure (which can be drawn at Student Health for students in Charleston). Protocol labs will be monitored at regular intervals over the following 4-6 months to detect whether or not hepatitis C transmission occurred. If viral transmission does occur during follow up monitoring, there are anti-viral medications that can be initiated that are highly effective at eradicating the infection.
- **Exposure to Source with active Hepatitis B Infection (HBsAg +)** – for students who have completed the hepatitis B vaccine series and have an immune hepatitis B surface antibody on file, then no further testing or treatment is necessary. Students who are potentially susceptible to hepatitis B infection should have their blood tested for hepatitis B surface antibody. This includes those who: (1) completed the primary Hepatitis B vaccine series but did not check a post-vaccine titer for immunity. (2) Never received the primary hepatitis B vaccine series or have not completed the series. (3) Students who received two hepatitis B vaccine series and did not develop an immune serologic response should have their hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) tested. Students who are non-immune to hepatitis B should be offered Hepatitis B immune globulin. Students needing follow up can submit the necessary documentation of the exposure (**per Documenting The Exposure**) and MUSC Student Health can provide follow up management.

## Payment of Medical Charges

If it becomes necessary for post-exposure antiviral prophylaxis to be initiated or baseline testing to be performed on the student at an outside facility, it is **essential** for the student to complete the appropriate documentation (see **Documenting the Exposure**) and forward to MUSC Student Health Services.

Exposures that occur during clinical coursework will be covered under South Carolina Workers Comp. **DO NOT ALLOW FOR YOUR PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN TO BE BILLED FOR CHARGES (LABS/MEDICATIONS/ OCCUPATIONAL EVALUATION) RESULTANT FROM AN OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE.**

Once a student's private health insurance has been billed and processed, it is extremely difficult to retroactively have these charges reversed.



# BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT

**MUSC STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES**  
Medical University of South Carolina  
30 Bee Street – Suite 102, MSC 980  
Charleston, South Carolina 29425  
Office: (843) 792–3664 Fax: (843) 792 – 2318

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time of Exposure: \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_AM/PM    Date/Time Reported: \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_AM/PM

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

College: Med Dental Nursing CHP \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ Clinical Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Contact #:(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Clinical Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Rotation: \_\_\_\_\_ Supervising Faculty Member: \_\_\_\_\_

## Type of Exposure (Specify Below):

### Percutaneous (Punctures, Scrapes, Cuts, etc.):

Hollow Needle (Gauge) \_\_\_\_\_  Solid Sharp Instrument \_\_\_\_\_  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Safety Device on Instrument: Yes No    Safety Device Utilized: Yes No

Instrument Used For: \_\_\_\_\_

Injury Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Injury Depth: \_\_\_\_\_ mm

Body Fluid Involved: Blood Other \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of Fluid: \_\_\_\_\_ (ml)

Visible Blood Present on Instrument: Yes No Potentially

Primary User of Instrument: Self Resident Attending  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Protective Equipment: None Gloves (1 pr) Gloves (2 pr)

### Mucous Membrane Exposure (Splash of blood/bloody fluid to mucous membrane or nonintact skin):

Body Site Exposed: \_\_\_\_\_

Body Fluid Involved:

Blood  Other Fluid (specify) \_\_\_\_\_ Visible Blood Present in Fluid? Yes No Potentially

Amount of Fluid:  < drop  drop  0.5 ml  1 ml  > 1ml

Primary User of Instrument: Self Intern/Resident Attending  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Protective Equipment Used: None  Protective Eyewear: Goggles/Shield  Face Mask  Gown

### Other Type Exposure: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mechanism of Injury (Describe how exposure occurred):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Has Wound Been Washed with Soap/Water for 5 minutes** (eye splashes irrigated with water or saline for 15 minutes)? Yes No

**Source Patient Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DOB:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ **MRN/SSN:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Source Pt Status:**

Unknown with no Risk Factors  Unknown w/ (+) Risk Factors: \_\_\_\_\_ **Known**  HIV+  Hepatitis C  Hepatitis B surface Ag+

**For Known HIV (+) Source:**

Antiviral Medications: \_\_\_\_\_

Last HIV Viral Load Test (Result/Date): \_\_\_\_\_ Healthcare Provider Managing Condition: \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Information:**

Student Hepatitis B Vaccine Series (3) Completion/Year: No Yes \_\_\_\_\_

Student Hepatitis B surface Antibody Status: Unknown  Non-Immune  Immune (Date of Immune Titer): \_\_\_\_\_