

**Arizona Health Sciences Center
Student Occupational Exposure to
Potentially Infectious Agents and/or Hazardous Materials
Policy and Procedures**

It is the policy of The University of Arizona Health Sciences Center (AHSC) that all students who are exposed (i.e. needle stick, inhalation, mucus membrane or skin exposure or percutaneously to infectious agents and/or hazardous materials including blood/body fluids) while engaged in a University-sponsored educational program seek and obtain prompt medical attention, including counseling, prophylactic drug treatment, and baseline and follow up laboratory values, as necessary.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to establish policy and procedures for student occupational exposure to potentially infectious agents and/or hazardous materials

DEFINITIONS

Students: University of Arizona students who are currently enrolled in one of the AHSC colleges or a non U of A student on an approved clinical rotation as a visiting student with an AHSC college

Occupational exposure to potentially infectious agents and hazardous materials: An exposure by skin, eye, mucous membrane, or parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that may result from the performance of duties or exposure by inhalation, skin, eye, or mucous membrane to substances defined as hazardous chemicals present in the training site

STUDENT OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE PROCEDURE CARDS (Card)

Student Occupational Exposure Procedure Cards (hereafter referred to as “Card”) are developed for and distributed to AHSC students by their respective college’s Office of Student Affairs. Cards are also available at AHSC Student Affairs offices and posted online to all AHSC Student Affairs websites. Students must keep this Card readily available. Students must refer to and present the Card to the health care provider in the event of an exposure during training. AHSC periodically revises student occupational exposure policies and procedures and will distribute updated Cards as applicable.

Because students utilize many facilities for their training, it is important to note the Cards are intended to be general instructions on how to proceed in the event of an exposure. The Cards DO NOT take the place of IMMEDIATE evaluation and treatment.

PREVENTION EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS

In addition to education built into each college’s curriculum, students must complete required chemical safety and bloodborne pathogens training as outlined by The Department of Risk Management Services (RMS). This training is required by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards and includes information on hazard recognition, exposure prevention, and post-exposure procedures.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY:

After the student’s insurance has paid the claim, the college will reimburse the student for the amount he/she paid for the initial assessment, prophylactic treatment, and necessary tests including labs related to the exposure. See Reimbursement Procedure.

Visiting students are not eligible for reimbursement.

The student maintains financial responsibility for medical costs beyond the care outlined above.

Students are not eligible for worker's compensation benefits.

TRAINING INSTITUTIONS AND SITE AFFILIATES

All contracts with training institutions and site affiliates will include a provision that requires the training institutions and site affiliates to provide or make available assessment of an exposure to determine exposure significance and the necessity for treatment, if applicable. Provision will also require the training institution and site affiliate to ensure any required assessment and treatment will be within the time limits articulated, as set forth in the most recent protocols of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and consistent with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Standards.

STUDENT OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE PROCEDURE (Card)

In the event of an exposure, students must follow the following procedure.

1. Remove soiled clothing and wash the exposed area with soap and water, if appropriate. Administer first aid as appropriate to the exposure*
2. Immediately notify attending physician/supervisor of exposure
3. Students shall present at the Affiliate's Employee Health, ER, or Urgent Care for assessment and initial prophylactic treatment if applicable
4. Students should present the Card to treating health care provider
5. For Blood/Body Fluid Exposures: Following the incident, the Affiliate shall immediately make available to the affected student a copy of all the student's records relating to the treatment and follow up, and if and when available, results regarding the HIV, HBV, and HCV status of the source, to the extent permitted by law
6. Following the incident, the student must download and complete the Non-Employee Incident Report Form from the UA Risk Management website and send to BOTH of the departments listed below. FORM: <http://risk.arizona.edu/forms/index.shtml>

University of Arizona Campus Health
Highland Commons
1224 E. Lowell Street
PO Box 210095
Tucson, AZ 85721
Fax (520) 626-4301

Risk Management Services
(attn: Herb Wagner)
220 W. 6th Street
P.O Box 210300
Tucson, AZ 85721-0300
Fax (520) 621-3706

7. Within 5 days of the exposure, the student must follow up with Campus Health
TUCSON: University of Arizona Campus Health 520-621- 6493
PHOENIX: ASU Downtown Campus Health 602-496-0721

FOR TREATING PHYSICIAN: If consultation is needed, treating physician may contact the on-call infectious disease physicians at UA via the Physician's Resource Line at 520-694-5868 or 800-777-7552 to discuss recommendations for tests and/or medications related to the student's exposure.

Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center (24/7): 1-800-222-1222

Post-exposure testing and further prophylactic drug treatment of AHSC students will be performed in Tucson or Phoenix.

REIMBURSEMENT PROCEDURE

For UA AHSC Students Only

Colleges cannot process a payment to a health care facility on a student's behalf. Therefore, all claims will be processed as reimbursements.

In order to receive reimbursement, the student must first bill his/her health insurance. Then, the student must pay the remaining balance and submit the following documents to the student's respective college's Office of Student Affairs in order to have the claim reimbursed.

In order to have the claim reimbursed, the student must submit:

1. Student Occupational Exposure Reimbursement Claim Form
2. An itemized bill
3. Explanation of Benefits (EOB) from insurance company
4. Paid receipt

*** RESOURCES AND REFERENCES**

UA Student Exposure to Blood/Body Fluids

<https://health.arizona.edu/student-exposure-bloodbody-fluids>

University of Arizona Campus Health

<http://www.health.arizona.edu/>

University of Arizona Risk Management Services

<https://risk.arizona.edu/>

University of Arizona Non-Employee Incident Report Form

<https://risk.arizona.edu/insurance/incident-reporting>

OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=10051

OSHA Laboratory Standard

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=10106

CDC Biosafety Standards

<http://www.cdc.gov/biosafety/publications/bmb15/index.htm>