



GUIDELINES

SUBJECT/TITLE: Nursing Students Presenting Hepatitis B Positive Results		PAGE: 1 of 5
RELATED POLICY: Faculty of Nursing: Immunization and N95 Requirements for Faculty of Nursing Students		DATE ESTABLISHED:
AUTHORIZATION: Practice Policy and Procedure Committee Undergraduate Programs Committee		DATE LAST REVISED: September 1, 2018 June 13, 2018 May, 2020 (MHC)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this operating standard is to:

- Ensure the safety of clients/patients
- Ensure that Faculty standards meet contractual obligations with practice partners
- Establish a process to be followed when a Nursing Student is identified as Hepatitis B positive

SCOPE

This applies to Medicine Hat College nursing students.

DEFINITIONS

In this document:

- 'AHS' means Alberta Health Services
- 'Nursing Chair' means the Chair of the Nursing Program at Medicine Hat College
- 'BBVI' means Blood Borne Virus Infection and includes Human Immune Deficiency Virus, Hepatitis C Virus and Hepatitis B Virus
- 'CARNA' means College & Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta
- 'Client' means patient, family or groups in acute care and community settings
- 'Confidential' means that access to the records is limited to those with a demonstrated need to know. Information that is classified as Confidential must be stored within a controlled access system. It may be transmitted on internal networks with or without encryption. Information must be encrypted if transmitted on public network.
- 'EPP' means Exposure-Prone Procedure. Health Canada's definition of EPP is those during which transmission of HBV, HCV, or HIV from a HCW to patient is most likely to occur and includes the following: A) digital palpation of a needle tip in a body cavity, a hollow space within the body or one of its organs, or the simultaneous presence of the HCW's fingers and a needle or other sharp instrument or object in a blind or highly confined anatomic site, e.g. during major abdominal, cardiothoracic, vaginal, and/or orthopedic operations, or B) repair of major traumatic injuries, or

- C) major cutting or removal of an oral or perioral tissue, including tooth structures, during which there is a potential for the patient's open tissue to be exposed to the blood of an injured HCW.
- h) 'Faculty' means the Faculty of Nursing at the Medicine Hat College Campus.
- i) 'HBV' means Hepatitis B Virus
- j) 'HBV Positive' means a person who has the HBV; is a carrier of the virus which is determined through blood testing.
- k) 'HCW' means health care worker and includes health care students
- l) 'RSAs' means the requisite skills and abilities, as set out by CARNA and amended from time to time, required to progress through a nursing education program and to attain the entry-to-practice competencies for registered nurses in Alberta.
- m) 'Student' means an individual who is enrolled in the Faculty of Nursing
- n) 'College' means Medicine Hat College

POLICY/STANDARD

As stated in the Medicine Hat College academic calendar, all nursing students are required to complete a series of immunization and diagnostic tests as outlined on the Student Immunization Worksheet. It is through this process that a student would be identified as HBV positive.

Immunization requirements are based on standards set by AHS as outlined in the 'Standard for Immunization of Post-Secondary Health Care Students and Students in Other High-Risk Occupational Programs'.

Failure to comply with this policy may put the student at risk of not completing the program.

Student health records are confidential; therefore, only HBV Positive results will be shared with the Dean and Department Chair in accordance with verbal instructions given by AHS (Manager, Academic Student Relations), HBV Positive results will not be shared with AHS.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Department Chair will arrange a meeting with the student, requesting that the CARNA documents related to BVI be read in advance. At the meeting, the Department Chair will:
 - a) include a discussion of whether the student:
 - is under the medical care of a physician and receiving care for their personal health related to their HBV Positive status;
 - has been to or has been referred to a hepatologist;
 - has been contacted by AHS, Communicable Disease regarding their HBV status;
 - if these steps have not been taken, the student will be advised to complete them.
 - b) Review the CARNA documents with the student so as to ensure they have an understanding of:
 - What an EPP Procedure is;
 - What to do if they are asked to do an exposure prone procedure;
 - What to do when they are unsure if something was an EPP;
 - What to do if questioned by their instructor as to why they declined the procedure; and
 - What to do when they feel or know that a client has come in contact with their body fluid.
 - c) Direct the student to additional information (if required) through the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta website.
2. The Student is required to:
 - a) meet with the Department Chair;

- b) read the CARNA documents and come prepared to the meeting with any questions they have relating to the information they have reviewed;
- c) arrange any outstanding appointments (refer to 1.a.);
- d) follow-up yearly with their health care provider so as to ensure Fitness to Practice.

RELATED INFORMATION

Requisite Skills and Abilities for Becoming a Registered Nurse in Alberta, CARNA, May 2011

https://nurses.ab.ca/docs/default-source/document-library/guidelines/rn-requisite-skills.pdf?sfvrsn=5a937640_14

Student Placement Agreement (July 30, 2013) – The Board of Governors of the University of Calgary and Alberta Health Services

HISTORY

Approved by: Department Chair, Tanis Robinson, Faculty of Nursing, June 13, 2018, as adopted from the University of Calgary

Created in consultation with University Legal Services – Access and Privacy, Alberta health Services, Faculty of Nursing Practice Policy and Procedure Committee, Faculty of Nursing Undergraduate Programs Committee and the Graduate Programs Office.