

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **UBC Faculty of Medicine students**

### **Blood or Body Fluid (BBF) Exposure**

All UBC Faculty of Medicine (FoM) students should know how to manage a Blood or Body Fluid (BBF) exposure, such as a needle-stick, suture-stick, scratch or splash.

A useful source of information about contact with blood or body fluids is [HealthLink BC File #97 \(April 2011\)](#).

Such exposures can occur at any time during training in a FoM program. All BC hospitals, in all Health Authorities, have detailed protocols for managing these exposures and it is important that students follow these protocols.

In general, the protocols require the student to perform first aid to the exposed site (see below), inform their preceptor of the exposure, and provide the name/PHN of the patient involved. The student is then expected to attend the closest Emergency Room immediately (within 2 hours) for assessment, triage, and possible treatment by the ER physician. Attending at the Emergency Room is not optional. The student and the preceptor will be required to fill out forms which document the event. Follow-up procedures will be set in place – see general reporting procedures and site-specific reporting procedures, below.

ALL students participating in experiences which are part of their educational program (electives, clinical rotations) in British Columbia, are covered by WorkSafeBC. Therefore students who have a BBF incident which is part of their program, in British Columbia, are required to fill out WorkSafeBC forms, and start a WorkSafeBC Claim (see below) as well as follow the usual Health Authority procedures. UBC students participating in volunteer activities, shadowing in or outside of BC, or other medical experiences outside of BC are not covered by WorkSafeBC, and should follow the protocols of the local Health Authority in which they are working. MSP or their personal health insurance will cover the cost of lab tests, etc.

### **Procedures for Managing a Blood or Body Fluid (BBF) Exposure**

**Blood or body fluid (BBF) exposure:** An event where blood or other potentially infectious body fluid comes into contact with skin, mucous membranes, or subcutaneous tissue (via percutaneous injury [ie. needle stick]).

#### **Protocols for Managing a BBF exposure:**

- Mucous membrane or eye: Rinse well with water and/or normal saline.
- Skin: Wash well with soap and water.
- Allow injury/wound site to bleed freely, and then cover lightly.

- Do not promote bleeding of percutaneous injuries by squeezing. This may damage the tissues and increase uptake of any pathogen(s).

### **General Reporting Procedures for Blood or Body Fluid Exposure ALL SITES**

1. Report the incident.
  - If working in a hospital, report to the nurse-in-charge. Remind him/her that you are covered by WorkSafeBC. Also, notify your preceptor of the exposure.
  - If working in an office or clinic, notify the preceptor or supervisor of the exposure. You may be able to do this at the time of the exposure – or sometime later.
2. **GO TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM AT THE NEAREST HOSPITAL within two hours of exposure – THIS IS NOT OPTIONAL.** Advise the triage nurse of the BBF exposure and that you are covered by WorkSafeBC, unless you are volunteering or shadowing. In the ER, Form 2339 will be filled out. This form collects information from all health care workers and also from the 'source', and goes to the lab with the blood work. This form is filled out for all BBF exposures. Since you are covered by WorkSafeBC, it will be considered an occupational exposure and UBC is designated as your employer.
  - Go to: [www.cairs.ubc.ca](http://www.cairs.ubc.ca) and report the accident or incident.

Student must complete *UBC Practicum/Clinical Placement Student's Report of Occupational Injury or Disease*.

- Student should ensure that his/her supervisor/preceptor goes to [www.cairs.ubc.ca](http://www.cairs.ubc.ca) and reports the accident or incident.

Supervisor/Preceptor must complete *Practicum Supervisor/Preceptor Report of Occupational Injury or Disease*.

3. Start WorkSafe BC Claim by calling the WorkSafeBC Teleclaim Contact Centre at 1-888-WORKERS (1-888-967-5377).

For more information and/or questions, please contact Nick Steel, Health & Safety Advisor, Faculty of Medicine at [nick.steel@ubc.ca](mailto:nick.steel@ubc.ca) or 604-827-2864.