

## **Immunisation and Blood-borne Viruses**

At various stages of your training and subsequent practice, you will be exposed to patients with infectious diseases. It is essential that you protect yourself and prevent the transmission of infections to other patients. UNSW Medicine has implemented the Immunisation and Blood-borne Viruses Policy, which aims to minimise the risk of students contracting or spreading an infectious disease or blood-borne virus, such as HIV, and Hepatitis B or C.

Compliance with this Policy will ensure that you can undertake clinical placements in teaching hospitals, which are administered by NSW Health.

### **Immunisation requirements of NSW Health for clinical placements**

All students on clinical placements in teaching hospitals of the university are required to comply with the NSW Health policy on *Occupational Assessment, Screening and Vaccination against Specified Infectious Diseases*.

If you fail to comply with the NSW Health policy, the hospital will prevent you from commencing your clinical placement until you are compliant. The Faculty has no input into this decision. If you are unable to commence a clinical placement, you may not meet the requirements of the course which would result in a fail. Repeated failures will eventually lead to exclusion from the program.

If you are unable to meet the requirements of the NSW Health policy because of medical contraindications or if you fail to respond to a vaccine, you may have your clinical training program modified depending on the circumstances.

In order to comply with this policy, you must obtain the evidence of protection against the infectious diseases specified on the NSW Health website

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/oasv.aspx>

Explanatory Notes:

1. The written record of vaccination signed by a medical practitioner must provide details of the vaccination (batch number, date of administration) and contain a Medical Practice Stamp. Handwritten notes with a signature will not be accepted by NSW Health. The most suitable record is the *Health Care Worker/Student Vaccination Record Card* which you can obtain from the University Health Service or the Medicine Education and Student Office.
2. The most suitable evidence of serological confirmation is a copy of the test result.

NSW Health staff will visit the campus in semester 1 of each year to conduct a Bulk Compliance Check. The Medicine Education and Student Office arranges individual appointments for students to attend the Bulk Compliance Check. You will need to provide all the required documentation to be sighted by NSW Health staff who will assess your compliance status with NSW Health Policy.

A checklist containing the links to all relevant forms to be presented to NSW Health staff is available on the Medicine Program website see link below

<http://medprogram.med.unsw.edu.au/nsw-health-requirements>

Only students who are fully compliant with NSW Health Policy will be permitted to attend clinical placement.

## **Blood-borne viruses**

All students in the Medicine program could ordinarily be expected to undertake exposure-prone procedures during their clinical training and all medical students must know their status for blood-borne viruses. This does not apply to students in the Exercise Physiology program.

Prior to commencing clinical studies, you must be tested for HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C. You are also required to have these tests repeated if you have been potentially exposed under any circumstances.

The results of these tests are confidential and there is no requirement or expectation that you inform the Faculty if tests confirm that you have an infection with a blood-borne virus. However an infected student should seek advice from an appropriate specialist to determine how this may affect clinical training and future options for professional practice.

A student who is aware that he/she has a blood-borne virus infection must not undertake exposure-prone procedures<sup>1</sup>. Any infected student who knowingly undertakes an exposure-prone procedure or any student who in any other way endangers the health of patients will be reported to the Medical Board of Australia, which may refer the complaint to the Board's Impaired Practitioner Program. The Board may prohibit or restrict the student's right to undertake clinical studies or practice. Such a student would also be liable to criminal prosecution if a blood-borne virus is knowingly transmitted. Depending on the circumstances, the student could also be subject to the University's Student Misconduct Rules.

---

<sup>1</sup> Procedures where there is potential for contact between the skin of a health care worker and sharp surgical instruments, needles or pieces of bone/tooth in body cavities or in poorly visualised or confined body sites.