



## Policy

**TITLE:** Student Exposure to HIV

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 2010; Revised April 1, 2021

**APPROVER(S):** Dean of Medical Education, OCS Head of School

**NUMBER:** OCS 157740-12

### I. Purpose

Ochsner Health System will provide Ochsner Clinical School medical students training at any Ochsner Health System facility, with medical screening, evaluation and treatment following occupational exposure to HIV. Students with a blood and body fluid exposure should follow the procedures outlined in OCS Policy #400.4 Blood and Body Fluid Exposure. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended chemoprophylactic medications following occupational exposure to HIV. Post exposure prophylaxis is recommended for exposure to blood or visibly bloody fluid or other potentially infectious material (e.g. semen, vaginal secretions, and cerebrospinal, synovial, pleural, peritoneal, pericardial, and amniotic fluids) associated with potential HIV transmission, and post exposure prophylaxis should be initiated within 2-hours after the exposure.

### II. Scope

This policy applies to all Ochsner Clinical School medical students.

### III. Policy Statements

- I. Immediately following a blood or body fluid exposure, the student should report to Employee Health and Wellness during normal business hours, Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. After hours the student should contact their rotation supervisor. If the exposure is from an unknown source patient the student should report to Employee Health and Wellness the next business day. The student should only report to the emergency room if the sharps injury is serious and requires medical attention.
- II. New Orleans and North Shore satellite clinic managers will notify Employee Health and Wellness during normal business hours of the exposure and receive further instructions for evaluation and management of the student.
- III. If the source patient is **KNOWN** to be HIV positive, the student will receive 3-days of prophylactic therapy. First dose should be taken immediately, within 2-hours of the exposure. If the source patient's HIV status is **UNKNOWN**, a rapid HIV test will be done on the source patient. The Blood Bank will perform the rapid HIV test for the main campus clinics, New Orleans Satellite clinics, and Hospital. The North Shore and Baton Rouge core laboratories will perform the rapid HIV test for those regions; a sample of blood should be sent to the Blood Bank for further testing.

See # XI for procedure for obtaining blood sample from the source patient. The results of the rapid HIV test will be available in approximately 1-hour after receipt of the blood sample and will be called to employee health, nursing supervisor or the ordering physician. If the source patient is HIV negative, no further treatment is needed. If the source patient is found to be HIV positive, the employee will receive 3-days of prophylactic therapy with the first dose taken immediately, within 2-hours of the exposure. After hours, the rotation supervisor will contact the charge nurse in the emergency room in order to inform the emergency room that a student has had an occupational exposure to HIV and needs an emergency supply of prophylactic medication.

- IV. Chemoprophylactic Regimen  
Kaletra (lopinavir 200 mg/ritonavir 50 mg) 2 tablets orally every 12 hours  
Combivir (lamivudine 150 mg/zidovudine 300 mg) 1 tablet orally every 12 hours
- V. Emergency supply of Medications  
The outpatient pharmacy will package a 3-day supply of the chemoprophylactic regimen for the following locations:
- Main campus Employee Health Department
  - Ochsner Medical Center Emergency Department (ED main PYXIS)
  - Covington Family Medicine
  - Baton Rouge (BlueBonnet) After Hours clinic
- VI. Each designated department is responsible for assuring that the emergency supply of medications has not expired; emergency department's expiration dates are tracked through PYXIS. When the medication is within 30 days of expiration, the clinic should contact the Outpatient pharmacy for a new supply of emergency medications.
- VII. The Outpatient pharmacy will be notified that an emergency supply of medications has been dispensed and replacement medication is needed. The outpatient pharmacy will bill for the medications through the Ochsner Health System Employee Health program.
- VIII. Students exposed to potentially infectious blood and body fluids will be evaluated by an Infectious Diseases physician or other designated physician. The appointment will be made by employee health. Following evaluation, the student will be given prescriptions for chemoprophylaxis if necessary. The prescriptions will be labeled 'Employee Health'. The student will present the prescriptions to the Ochsner Health System Outpatient Pharmacy. The Outpatient Pharmacy will dispense the medications to the student and charge for the medications through the Ochsner Health System Employee Health program.
- IX. The Infectious Diseases physician or other designated physician will schedule any further medical evaluations and follow-up that may be necessary.

- X. Obtaining a blood sample from the source patient of **KNOWN OR UNKNOWN** HIV status.
- Following a blood or body fluid exposure from a patient of known or unknown HIV status, a blood sample will be obtained.
  - Employee Health or after hours, the Nursing Supervisor, will call the lab with the source patient's name and clinic number to determine if a refrigerated purple top blood sample less than 30 hours old is available in the lab for testing. If a blood sample is available in the lab, the lab will immediately send the blood sample labeled "NEEDLE STICK" to the EIA Blood Bank Lab. No paperwork is to accompany the blood sample.
  - If a blood sample is NOT available in the lab, the sample must be obtained from the patient.
    - a. Collect a blood sample in a 6 mL purple top tube. The sample may be obtained by any individual qualified to draw blood, such as a phlebotomist or nurse.
    - b. Label with patient's name, clinic number and "NEEDLESTICK".
    - c. Send blood specimen to the Blood Bank (Tube system, Blood Bank Station #41) or walk to second floor of Research building (New Orleans only).
    - d. Baton Rouge and North Shore send the blood sample to the core
    - e. laboratory in those regions.
    - f. DO NOT accession any orders into the computer.

XI. Laboratory testing on the source patient

After a blood sample is obtained from the source patient the following laboratory test will be completed:

- Rapid HIV 1/2 test (HIV status is unknown)
- HIV 1/2 Ab - If positive a HIV Western blot will be done to confirm the test results.
- HbsAg- If no previously drawn blood is available or suitable and the patient refuses or is unable to give consent, the Infectious Disease physician may order that blood be drawn from the patient to conduct the necessary tests.
- HCV Ab – If no previously drawn blood is available or suitable and the patient refuses or is unable to give consent, the Infectious Disease physician may order that blood be drawn from the patient to conduct the necessary tests.

- XII. Laboratory testing on the student will be done in Employee Health. The student should complete a HIV consent form. The following laboratory tests will be completed.
- HIV 1/2 Ab - If positive a HIV Western blot will be done to confirm the test results.
  - HBsAB
  - HCV Ab

#### **IV. Enforcement**

Failure to comply with this policy may result in progressive discipline up to and including termination of employment for employees or termination of contract or service for third-party personnel, students or volunteers.

#### **V. References**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Updated U.S. Public Health Service guidelines for the management of occupational exposures to HIV and recommendations for post exposure prophylaxis. MMWR 2005;54 (No. RR-9):1-17.