

Policy Updates

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Panel on Infection Control

Reviewed Policies

- Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Policy (2002)
- Guidelines Regarding Infectious Diseases and Occupational Health for Applicants to and Learners of the Faculty of Medicine Academic Programs (2013)

Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Policy

- All U of T affiliated hospitals must have policies and procedures to deal with sharps injuries and other exposures to blood and body fluid
- Program directors must ensure medical trainees have access to, and know how to access, these exposure procedures at both affiliated and non-affiliated sites and that blood and body fluid exposure management protocols are included in academic curriculum sessions
- PGME will maintain records of medical trainees' Hepatitis B immunization status and will share this with hospital OHS if required
- The policy outlines the specific roles of the trainee, hospital occupational health and the PGME office in responding to a blood or body fluid exposure
- Recommended changes: update 'hospital' to 'hospital and other healthcare settings'

Guidelines Regarding Infectious Diseases and Occupational Health for Applicants to and Learners of the Faculty of Medicine Academic Programs

- Purpose: to minimize the risk of infectious disease to learners and those they come in contact with
- The policy outlines expectations of learners with respect to
 - Following immunization requirements
 - IPAC training and adherence to IPAC policies and procedures
 - Providing care to patients with communicable disease
 - Exposure management including testing requirements
 - The need for testing for TB and hepatitis B
 - The need to report positive BBP status to the responsible party

Key Updates

- The OHA/OMA communicable disease surveillance protocols referred to in the original document are no longer available
- → reference to these documents was removed, responsibility for setting occupational health policy now rests with each hospital / healthcare facility
- Updated guidance on the management of healthcare workers infected with a BBP have been updated based on a reduced transmission risk given hepatitis B vaccination and advances in anti-viral treatments for HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C
- → only learners infected with a BBP that will, or may, perform exposure prone procedures require a full review by the Expert Panel