

Blood Borne Pathogens Policy

Office of Accountability:	Office of the Dean of Medicine
Offices of Administrative Responsibility:	Office of Student Affairs Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME) Office Undergraduate Medical Education (UGME) Office
Approver:	Senior Management Committee
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Definitions

Blood Borne Pathogens (as per the CPSNL Blood Borne Pathogens Policy)	Refers to hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), and/or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).
Confidentiality	In the context of this policy, confidentiality refers to the manner in which information regarding serology status is treated, whether that information is provided with an expectation of privacy or not. Access to confidential records will be limited to persons authorized to access the information contained therein, except as required by law or where health, safety, or security of a person or persons is a concern.
Exposure Prone Procedures (as per the CPSNL Blood Borne Pathogens Policy)	An exposure prone procedure is a procedure that involves one or more of the following: 1. 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 health-care worker'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 orthopaedic operations); or

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| | <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. repair of major traumatic injuries; or3. manipulation, cutting or removal of any oral or perioral tissue, including tooth structures during which blood from a health-care worker has the potential to expose the patient's open tissue to a blood borne pathogen. |
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Overview

In February 2014, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador (CPSNL) implemented a Blood Borne Pathogens Policy that is “intended to safeguard the health of both patients and physicians in relation to blood borne virus infection, and to minimize the risk of exposure to blood borne pathogens during the provision of care”.

Through possible needle sticks and other sharps-related injuries, both patients and health-care professionals may be at risk of exposure to blood borne pathogens (BBP). While the risk of BBP transmission is low, the Faculty of Medicine (FoM) shares responsibility to ensure that that risk is further minimized for patients, medical students, and residents.

Purpose

To outline the Faculty of Medicine's requirements and processes regarding implementation of the *College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador (CPSNL) Blood Borne Pathogens Policy* (the “CPSNL Policy”).

Scope

All medical students and residents enrolled at the FoM.

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Policy

1.0 General

- 1.1 The FoM endorses the CPSNL Policy.
- 1.2 No medical student or resident shall be denied consideration of acceptance into a program on the basis of HIV, HBV, or HCV serological status.
 - 1.2.1 Evaluation for admission and continuation in the programs will focus on whether the individual, in their current state of health, with reasonable accommodations, will be able to successfully complete the training requirements of the educational program. Such accommodation will be determined by the CPSNL Policy and the training requirements.
- 1.3 All records of serology status will be kept confidential and handled in accordance with the **Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act**, any other privacy legislation applicable to the University, any collective/affiliation agreement, or any CPSNL policy or procedure that may be applicable.

2.0 Responsibilities and Duties

- 2.1 Medical Students
 - 2.1.1 All medical students, in the course of their training, can normally expect to assist with, or perform, Exposure Prone Procedures. Therefore, based on the CPSNL Policy, all medical students have an ethical obligation to know their serological status for BBPs.
 - 2.1.2 Medical students are to be tested for blood borne pathogens (HBV, HCV and HIV) as recommended by a physician familiar with the treatment of BBPs if they have engaged in personal at-risk behaviours or have had potential exposure to a BBP.
 - 2.1.3 Electives, global health experiences, etc. will be guided by this expectation.

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2.2 Residents

2.2.1 Residents must sign a [Declaration: Blood Borne Pathogens Serology Expectations](#) form.

2.2.2 All residents, in the course of their first year of training, can normally expect to assist with, or perform, Exposure Prone Procedures. Therefore, based on the CPSNL Policy, all incoming residents have an ethical obligation to know their serological status for BBPs.

2.2.3 All residents who are performing or assisting in the performance of Exposure Prone Procedures should know their serological status for BBPs and are advised to undergo repeat testing when circumstances warrant (e.g. engaging in personal at risk behaviour or potential exposure to a BBP).

2.2.3.1 Moonlighting, electives, global health experiences, program transfers, etc. will be guided by this expectation.

2.2.4 An incoming resident who is known to be serologically positive for a BBP and contemplating application to a postgraduate program at Memorial University must seek counsel regarding their enrolment in certain residency programs. Counsel can be received from a medical doctor with expertise in BBPs or hepatology, or the Associate Dean of PGME at Memorial University of Newfoundland.

2.3 Medical Students and Residents

2.3.1 In the event of a positive serological result, a medical student, an incoming resident, or a resident performing or assisting in the performance of Exposure Prone Procedures must notify the CPSNL's Director of Quality Assurance.

2.3.2 Visiting medical students and visiting residents who will be performing or assisting in the performance of Exposure Prone Procedures are expected to adhere to the requirements of this document.

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Procedure

A.0 Medical Student or Resident

A.1 Has serology testing completed as per CPSNL guideline recommendations.

A.1.1 Residents sign a [Declaration: Blood Borne Pathogens Serology Expectations form](#).

A.2 When performing or assisting in the performance of Exposure Prone Procedures, notifies the CPSNL of serologically positive results.

A.3.1 For patient safety and to accommodate learning, the CPSNL may disclose confidentially positive serology results of medical students to the UGME Office and of residents to the PGME Office.

A.3 Adheres to any accommodation implemented by FoM or CPSNL.

B.0 Faculty of Medicine

B.1 Coordinates BBP serology testing for medical students and residents through the Student Health Service of Memorial University as appropriate.

B.2 Implements appropriate counselling, accommodation, notification (e.g. notifying a Regional Health Authority), etc. as per CSPNL recommendations for medical students or residents who are serologically positive.

Related Links

[CPSNL Blood Borne Pathogens Policy](#)

Previous Versions

There is at least one previous version of this policy. Contact the Policy Analyst to view earlier version(s):

Approval Date: September 15, 2014