

Policies Regarding Communicable Diseases – Potential Disease Exposure Form

Student Name: _____

PUC ID#: _____

Policies Regarding Communicable Diseases

The Purdue University Calumet School of Nursing seeks to minimize the risk of occupational exposure to communicable diseases, including Hepatitis (“HBV”), and the human immunodeficiency viruses (“HIV”) for its students, faculty, and patients/clients.

An individual’s HIV status will not be requested by the School of Nursing during the admissions or hiring process. If a student informs the School of Nursing that he or she is HIV positive, reasonable academic adjustments will be made if needed. Reasonable accommodations will be provided for qualified HIV positive faculty members who inform the School of Nursing of their status. Persons who are HIV positive will be allowed equal access to facilities of the School of Nursing, campus activities, and the clinical experience unless such participation poses a direct threat to the health or safety of the individual or others.

A student or faculty member who knows he/she is HIV positive or believes he/she is a “high risk” for HIV transmission is ethically responsible to consider the risk of transmitting HIV to the patient/ client during invasive procedures.

The School of Nursing will provide information regarding the possibility of occupational exposure to communicable diseases, including HBV and HIV, to students enrolled in the nursing programs. Before a student will be permitted to participate in any clinical experience, the student will be required to sign a form acknowledging that he/she has been informed of, and understands, the risk of exposure to communicable diseases in the clinical setting. Any student who refuses to sign the acknowledgment form will be terminated from the Nursing program.

All students and faculty are expected to care for any patient/client regardless of HBV and/or HIV status. A student who consistently refuses to care for a patient/client who is known to be HIV positive and/or HBV positive will be terminated from the Nursing program. A faculty member who refuses to care for HBV and/or HIV patients/ clients will be dismissed from the University.

Students and faculty who have known immunosuppressed conditions, open wounds, or who are pregnant, will be exempt from caring for patients/clients who are known to be HIV positive and/or HBV positive.

Student Procedures

In the clinical setting, all students will practice Universal Precautions in accordance with the current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) guidelines and will adhere to the policies of the clinical site as well. Prior to each semester’s initial clinical experience, members of the faculty will provide instruction on the use of Universal Precautions and exposure to blood and other body fluids. The faculty will ensure that each student understands and is capable of adhering to the Universal Precautions. Thereafter, each student is responsible for reviewing and practicing Universal Precautions in the clinical setting. On an annual basis students will sign a Universal Precautions Policy and Instruction Acknowledgment form.

If a student is exposed to blood or other body fluids of a patient/client, an incident report for both the School of Nursing and the clinical site must be completed. The student must immediately notify the faculty supervising the clinical experience. Faculty members shall notify the Head of Purdue University Calumet Nursing, and the Infection Control Nurse at the clinical site of any incidents involving a student. The policies of the institution where the exposure occurred and/or the CDC guidelines shall be consulted and followed. Any student is strongly encouraged to immediately obtain HIV and HBV testing to establish sero-negativity. Testing should be repeated at 6 weeks, 3 months, 6 months, and one-year post-exposure. The School of Nursing will pay hospital costs associated with initial testing for HIV and HBV. The School of Nursing or the institution will suggest counseling referrals for students exposed to blood or body fluids of a patient/client.

(Page 1 of 2)

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Faculty Procedures

In the clinical setting, all faculty will practice Universal Precautions in accordance with the current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) guidelines and will adhere to the policies of the clinical site as well.

If a faculty member is exposed to blood or other body fluids of a patient/client, the faculty member must complete an incident report for both the School of Nursing and the clinical site. Faculty members shall notify the Head of the School of Nursing and the Infection Control Nurse of the clinical site of any incidents involving a faculty member. The policies of the institution where the exposure occurred and/or the CDC guidelines shall be consulted and followed. Any faculty member who is exposed to blood or other body fluids in the clinical setting is strongly encouraged to immediately obtain HIV and HBV testing to establish sero-negativity. Testing should be repeated at 6 weeks, 3 months, 6 months, and one-year post-exposure. Purdue University will make counseling referrals as needed. Purdue University Calumet will assume hospital costs associated with initial testing, counseling and follow-up care for exposed faculty members.

Potential Disease Exposure Form

I understand and agree that I cannot, as a Purdue Calumet nursing student, ethically refuse to care for patient/clients with HIV, HBV, TB, or any other communicable disease. If I am uncomfortable with caring for patients with communicable diseases, I will discuss my concerns with a faculty member. If after discussion I am unwilling to care patients with communicable diseases, I understand I will be terminated from the Nursing program.

I understand that the School of Nursing recommends I inform my instructors of changes in my health status, such as pregnancy or contraction of a communicable disease. I have been informed and understand that an altered state of my health, such as being HIV positive, may increase my health risk in relation to care giving activities for patients with bacterial and viral disease. I have also been informed that some vaccinations are contraindicated or have decreased effectiveness in immunosuppressed conditions. Therefore, I agree to seek medical advice for changes in my health status, such as those previously discussed in this paragraph.

I have read the above information and have full understanding of the learning opportunities, risks, and safeguards provided by Purdue University Calumet’s School of Nursing. I have been given opportunity to ask questions about the admission requirements, conditions of progression, and expected competencies. I understand that nursing involves cognitive learning, affective values, and clinical performance standards. I recognize the need to care for persons with communicable diseases. I understand and agree that I cannot ethically and morally refuse to care for patients/clients with HIV, HBV, TB, or any other communicable disease.

Any questions I might have had regarding any topic addressed in this document, including attachments, have been answered to my satisfaction. I acknowledge that I have read this document in its entirety. I consent to follow the policies and procedures as explained therein.

Signature of Student

Date

Printed Name

PUC ID #

Signature of Witness

Date