



**FACULTY OF NURSING**

**Nursing Students Presenting Hepatitis B Positive Results**

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| Effective Date<br>May 1, 2017  | History                             | 8 |
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- Purpose**            **1**    The purpose of this operating standard is to:
- a) ensure the safety of clients/patients.
  - b) ensure that Faculty standards meet contractual obligations with practice partners.
  - c) establish a process to be followed when a Nursing Student is identified as Hepatitis B Positive.
- Scope**            **2**    This policy applies to University of Calgary Nursing Students
- Definitions**      **3**    In this document:
- a) “AHS” means Alberta Health Services.
  - b) “Associate Dean” means the Associate Dean Undergraduate Practice Education.

- c) "BBVI" means Blood Borne Virus Infection and includes Human Immune Deficiency Virus, Hepatitis C Virus and Hepatitis B Virus.
- d) "CRNA" means College of Registered Nurses of Alberta.
- e) "Client" means patient, family or groups in acute care and community settings.
- f) "Confidential" means that access to the records is limited to those with a demonstrated need to know. Information that is classified as Confidential must be stored within a controlled access system. It may be transmitted on internal networks with or without encryption. Information must be encrypted if transmitted on a public network.
- g) "EPP" means Exposure-Prone Procedure. Health Canada's definition of EPP is those during which transmission of HBV, HCV, or HIV from a HCW to patient is most likely to occur and includes the following: A) 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 HCW'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 orthopedic operations, or B) repair of major traumatic injuries, or C) major cutting or removal of an oral or perioral tissue, including tooth structures, during which there is a potential for the patient's open tissue to be exposed to the blood of an injured HCW.
- h) "Faculty" means the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Calgary.
- i) "HBV" means Hepatitis B virus.
- j) "HBV Positive" means a person who has the HBV; is a carrier of the virus. Which is determined through blood testing.
- k) "HCW" means health care worker and includes health care students.
- l) "RSAs" means the requisite skills and abilities, as set out by CRNA and amended from time to time, required to progress through a nursing education program and to attain the entry-to-practice competencies for registered nurses in Alberta.
- m) "Student" means an individual who is enrolled in the Faculty of Nursing.
- n) "University" means University of Calgary.

**Policy/Standard 4 4.1** As stated in the University Calendar, all nursing students are required to complete a series of immunization and diagnostic tests as outlined on the Student Immunization Worksheet. It is through this process that a Student would be identified as HBV Positive.

**4.2** Immunization requirements are based on standards set by AHS as outlined in the “Standard for Immunization of Post-Secondary Health Care Students and Students in Other High-Risk Occupational Programs”.

**4.3** Failure to comply with this policy may put the Student at risk of not completing the Program.

**4.4** Student health records are Confidential; therefore, only HBV Positive results will be shared with the Dean and/or Associate Dean. In accordance with verbal instructions given by AHS (Manager, Academic Student Relations), HBV Positive results will not be shared with AHS.

**Responsibilities**    **5**    **5.1** The Associate Dean will arrange a meeting with the Student, requesting that the CRNA documents related to BVI be read in advance. At the meeting, the Associate Dean will:

a) include a discussion, of whether the Student:

- i. is under the medical care of a physician and receiving care for their personal health related to their HBV Positive status;
- ii. has been to or has been referred to a hepatologist;
- iii. has been contacted by AHS, Communicable Disease regarding their HBV status;
- iv. If these steps have not been taken, the Student will be advised to complete them.

b) review the CRNA documents with the student so as to ensure they have an understanding of:

- i. what an EPP Procedure is;
- ii. what to do if they are asked to do an exposure prone procedure;
- iii. what to do when they are unsure if something was an EPP;
- iv. what to do if questioned by their Instructor as to why they declined the procedure; and
- v. what to do when they feel or know that a client has come in contact with their body fluid.

c) direct the Student to additional information (if required) through the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta web-site.  
<https://cpsa.ca/>

**5.2** The Student is required to:

- a) meet with the Associate Dean
- b) read the CRNA documents and come prepared to the meeting with any questions they have relating to the information they have reviewed.
- c) arrange any outstanding appointments (refer to 5.1.a.).

- d) follow-up yearly with their health care provider so as to ensure Fitness to Practice. The Associate Dean is to be notified if there is a change in your Fitness to Practice.

**Related Policies/ Standards**

- 6 University of Calgary Calendar, Faculty of Nursing, 3. Faculty Regulations, 3.1 Admissions, Immunization Requirements

FACULTY OF NURSING: Immunization and N95 Requirements for Faculty of Nursing Students

**Related Information**

- 7 [reducing-the-risk-of-transmission-of-blood-borne-infection-practice-advice.pdf](#)

[hlth-phdmg-hepatitis-b-acute-chronic-2024-06.pdf](#)

[if-hp-cdc-ipism-imm-recomm-hcs-high-risk-occ-prg-appdx-a-08-302.pdf](#)

[if-hp-cdc-ipism-std-imm-post-sec-stud-08-302.pdf](#)

Student Placement Agreement (July 30, 2013) – The Board of Governors of the University of Calgary and Alberta Health Services

**History**

- 8 *Approved by:*  
Dr. Dianne Tapp, Dean, Faculty of Nursing, March 13, 2017  
Reviewed by PPC May 6, 2021.

Created in consultation with University Legal Services – Access and Privacy, Alberta Health Services, Faculty of Nursing Practice Policy and Procedure Committee, Faculty of Nursing Undergraduate Programs Committee and the Graduate Programs Office.