



FACULTY OF NURSING
Nursing Students Presenting Hepatitis B Positive Results

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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 or the Associate Dean Graduate Programs.
- 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** <https://nurses.ab.ca/media/uo4jvdg1/reducing-the-risk-of-transmission-of-blood-borne-infection-practice-advice-2018.pdf>

<https://nurses.ab.ca/media/d4ydxeg/requisite-skills-and-abilities-for-becoming-a-registered-nurse-in-alberta-2021.pdf>

<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/hp/cdc/if-hp-cdc-ipsm-std-imm-post-sec-stud-08-302.pdf>

<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/hp/cdc/if-hp-cdc-ipsm-imm-recomm-hcs-high-risk-occ-prg-appdx-a-08-302.pdf>

<https://nurses.ab.ca/media/d4ydxeg/requisite-skills-and-abilities-for-becoming-a-registered-nurse-in-alberta-2021.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.