Title: Credentialing Immunization Requirements

Section No. 5  HR4  Section Name: Human Resources

Approval Date: 03/10/11; 05/23/13  Approval: Paul R.G. Cunningham, MD, FACS

I. Policy Statement
To prevent transmission of infectious diseases in the health care setting, all ECU Physicians providers credentialled through the ECU Physicians Managed Care Department must meet certain immunization requirements. The requirements in this policy are based on guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), the American College of Physicians (ACP), the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), and the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM). They are also based, in part, on Vidant Health’s requirements for Medical Staff and other health care provider privileges. Changes in those requirements may result in changes in this policy. For the purposes of this Policy, “Providers” include, but are not limited to, Physicians, Dentists, Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, Nurse Midwives, Licensed Psychologists, Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Licensed Psychological Associates, Audiologists, Speech Language Pathologists, Physical Therapists, Perfusionists, Genetic Counselors, Licensed Dietitians/Nutritionists, Athletic Trainers, Licensed Professional Counselors, Dental Hygienists, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, Clinical Pharmacist Practitioners, Licensed Family Marriage Therapists, and Occupational Therapists. Providers whose practice is strictly limited to telemedicine and selected other remote practitioners who are not Vidant Health medical staff members are exempt from this policy.

II. Procedure
All Providers must present sufficient documentation to the ECU Physicians Credentialing Office (“Credentialing Office”) for each of the infectious diseases noted above as part of the credentialing process outlined in the ECU Physicians Credentialing Plan. Documentation will then be presented by the Credentialing Office to Prospective Health for review and determination (at its sole discretion) that this Policy’s requirements are met. If Prospective Health determines that any of the requirements of this Policy is/are not met, it will notify the Credentialing Office who will then notify the Provider. The Provider must meet any remaining requirements and present sufficient documentation of same to the Credentialing Office who will forward this documentation to Prospective Health for review and determination (at its sole discretion) that this Policy’s requirements are met. Credentialing cannot be completed until all requirements of this
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III. Immunization Requirements

Unless there is a medical contraindication, to be credentialed and re-credentialed, practitioners will comply with immunizations or evidence of immunity against the following communicable diseases: measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, hepatitis B (unless the Provider signs a waiver declining the vaccine), diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, and influenza. Additionally, annual surveillance for tuberculosis will be required. Specific immunization/tuberculosis testing requirements will be maintained by the Office of Prospective Health and will be available for review.

IV. Exceptions

1. Possible Exclusions from Ongoing Immunization Requirements:

All providers seeking credentialing from ECU Physicians will comply with the requirements listed above regarding immunizations/tuberculosis surveillance at the time of initial credentialing. Some providers work in ambulatory clinic settings where exposure to acutely ill patients does not occur on a frequent basis, such as in the clinics of...
Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University
ECU Physicians

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the College of Allied Health Sciences. Providers in those clinics are required to comply with appropriate infection control procedures from the Office of Prospective Health. This includes prompt referral of any acutely ill patient to a health care provider capable of caring for the acute illness.

Therefore, after initial immunization and screening requirements are satisfied, credentialed providers not working in the in-patient hospital setting or in an outpatient care environment where exposure to Tuberculosis or patient body fluids can be expected are not required to meet periodic immunization requirements as set forth in this policy. These providers may be required to attest to their eligibility for this exception.

2. **Personal History:**
Some providers may have a personal clinical history that makes certain immunizations contraindicated or may never develop a positive immunologic response and positive titer. It is the responsibility of the individual provider to identify any such conditions and bring them to the attention of the ECU Physicians Credentialing Office. The Credentialing Office will obtain review from the Office of Prospective Health on whether to grant an exception to this policy for that provider.

3. **Medical Exemption:**
A claim by a provider that he/she cannot be vaccinated based on the grounds that vaccination is medically contraindicated may be brought to the Office of Prospective Health for final determination of an exception based on the provider’s scope of care and potential risks to patients. Providers requesting this exemption must provide proof of medical contraindications such as a letter and/or medical records from their personal providers. For medical exemptions granted for avoidance of exposure to live vaccines during pregnancy, the immunization must be completed during the post-partum period, prior to returning to clinical work.

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<th>Recommending Body: ECU Physicians Board of Directors</th>
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<tr>
<td>Effective Date: 03/14/11; 07/01/13</td>
<td>Contact Person/Reference Source: Medical Director Credentialing Coordinator</td>
<td>Extension: 744-7400 744-2290</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revision/Review Date: 03/01/15</td>
<td>Revision/Review Person/Source: Medical Director Credentialing Coordinator</td>
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4. **Religious Exemption:**

A claim by a provider that he/she cannot be vaccinated based on the grounds that vaccination would conflict with the provider’s sincerely held religious beliefs may be brought to the ECU Physicians Medical Director who shall adjudicate the request. The Medical Director may consult with others at his discretion. These requests must be submitted in writing. The Medical Director may consult with others and shall make a decision regarding appropriate limitations and safeguards, based on the provider’s specialty and potential risk to patients.