

**Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University  
ECU Physicians Administration**

Title: Credentialing Immunization Requirements #HR4	
Section No. 2	Section Name: Human Resources
Approval Date: 03/10/11	Approval: Paul R.G. Cunningham, M.D., Dean

**I. POLICY:**

It is the policy of ECU Physicians that all providers who are processed for credentialing through the ECU Physicians Managed Care Department must meet certain immunization requirements to prevent transmission of infectious disease in the healthcare setting. Credentialing health requirements in this policy are based, in part, on the Pitt County Memorial Hospital requirements for Medical Staff and other healthcare provider privileges. Future changes in those requirements may dictate 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 Social Workers, Licensed Psychological Associates, Audiologists, Speech Language Pathologists, Physical Therapists, Perfusionists, Genetic Counselors, Licensed Dietitians/Nutritionists, Athletic Trainers, Licensed Professional Counselors, Dental Hygienists, and Occupational Therapists.

**II. IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS:**

All Providers must present sufficient documentation (as determined in the sole discretion of the ECU Office of Prospective Health ("Prospective Health")) as described, below, for each of the following infectious diseases:

**1. Measles:**

- If born in 1957 or later, 2 doses of live attenuated measles vaccine after 1<sup>st</sup> birthday; or
- If born in 1956 or earlier, 1 dose of live attenuated measles vaccine after 1<sup>st</sup> birthday; or
- Positive measles antibody titer; or
- If measles antibody tests negative for immunity, vaccine is needed.

**2. Mumps:**

- If born in 1957 or later, mumps vaccine received on or after 1<sup>st</sup> birthday; or
- Physician documentation of mumps disease; or
- Positive mumps antibody titer; or
- If mumps antibody tests negative for immunity, vaccine is needed.

**3. Rubella:**

- Rubella vaccine received on or after 1<sup>st</sup> birthday; or

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Effective Date: March 14, 2011	Contact Person/Reference Source: Nicholas Benson, MD, MBA, Medical Director Brenda Boklage, Credentialing Coordinator	Extension: 4-7400 4-2290
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- Positive rubella antibody titer; or
- If rubella antibody tests negative for immunity, vaccine is needed.

**4. Varicella:**

- 2 doses of varicella vaccine; or
- History of chicken pox; or
- Positive varicella (VZV) antibody titer; or
- If VZV tests negative for immunity, the provider must receive 2 doses of varicella vaccine.

**5. Hepatitis B:**

- 3 doses Hepatitis B vaccine; or
- Serologic evidence of immunity; or
- If documentation is not provided of 3 doses of Hepatitis vaccine and/or serologic evidence of immunity and the Provider declines the vaccine, the Provider must sign a waiver stating they have been informed of, acknowledge, understand, and appreciate any risks associated with not having this vaccine, including the risk of acquiring the disease.

**6. Tuberculosis:**

- Current negative PPD test within the past 12 months; or
- Negative Quantiferon test within the past 12 months
- If Provider has documentation of positive PPD or Quantiferon test, a normal chest x-ray, i.e., no signs of active pulmonary tuberculosis infection, chest X-ray within the last 2years OR once, with a current negative symptom screen verified by Credentialing Verification Office will be required.

**7. Pertussis**

- One dose of TdAP is strongly recommended but should not be given within two years of previous Td booster.

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### III. PROCEDURE

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

Prior to credentialing and employment at ECU, a Provider-applicant may obtain immunizations from any provider of his/her choosing so long as the Provider meets the requirements of this Policy. Prospective Health can provide immunizations to a Provider-applicant prior to employment at ECU, but only on a fee-for-service basis. Once the Provider is hired and becomes an ECU employee, Prospective Health will provide an annual employee health update and updated immunizations on an ongoing basis according to the policies and guidelines issued by Prospective Health (<http://www.ecu.edu/cs-dhs/prospectivehealth/index.cfm>). Providers credentialed by ECU Physicians may receive periodic immunizations from Prospective Health and are expected to comply with the annual employee health update to meet the yearly health requirements.

### IV. Exceptions

**1. Possible Exclusions from Ongoing Immunization Requirements:**

All providers seeking credentialing from ECU Physicians will comply with the requirements listed above regarding the immunizations 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 the College of Allied Health Sciences. Providers in those clinics are required to comply with appropriate infection control procedures from the Office of

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Prospective Health, which includes prompt triaging of any acutely ill patient to a healthcare 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. Some providers may have 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.

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