

What to do for Blood Borne/Fluid Pathogen Exposure

In the course of medical training students may be exposed to blood, infectious body fluid, serum or unfixed tissue by sharps stick. Exposure may also take the form of a splash onto mucous membrane or non intact skin. Evidence has shown that prompt evaluation and beginning prophylactic medication for potential HIV exposure can significantly reduce the risk of transmittal. For all incidents of potential blood borne/fluid pathogen exposure students should immediately seek help in this situation. Your health and the future of your future patients may be at risk.

In the event of exposure to a potential blood borne/fluid pathogen, students should remain calm and follow one of the procedures described below based upon the site of the exposure and the time of day. Please note that in each of the scenarios blood will be drawn for baseline laboratory work.

- A. Exposure at Vidant Medical Center (VMC) during Regular Working Hours (7:00 am to 7:00 pm)
 1. Report blood exposures to the Office of Occupational Health at VMC (847-7609 or 847-4386).
 2. VMC will provide evaluation and treatment.
 3. Students should contact the East Carolina University Office of Prospective Health at 744-2070 or 744-3545 as soon as possible during the hours of 7:45 am to 4:45 pm.

- B. Exposure at Vidant Medical Center (VMC) after Regular Working Hours (7:00 pm to 7:00 am)
 1. Report blood exposures to the Blood Exposure Hotline at VMC (252-847-8500)
 2. Students will be referred to the Emergency Department for evaluation and treatment.
 3. Students should contact the East Carolina University Office of Prospective Health at 744-2070 or 744-3545 as soon as possible after this initial evaluation, during the hours of 7:45 am to 4:45 pm. This is where all follow-up regarding the exposure will occur

- C. Exposure at an ECU Physicians practice site during Regular Working Hours (7:45 am to 4:45 pm)
 1. Contact the Office of Prospective Health at 744-2070 or 744-3545.
 2. Go to the Office of Prospective Health immediately for evaluation and treatment.

- D. Exposure at an ECU Physicians practice site after Regular Working Hours (4:45 pm to 7:45 am)
 1. Students should report to the Emergency Department for evaluation and treatment.
 2. Students should contact the East Carolina University Office of Prospective Health at 744-2070 or 744-3545 as soon as possible after this initial evaluation during the hours of 7:45 am to 4:45 pm.

- E. Exposure at a local, Greenville-based clinical site not affiliated with ECU Physicians or Vidant.
 1. Contact the Office of Prospective Health at 744-2070 or 744-3545.
 2. Go to the Office of Prospective Health immediately for evaluation and treatment.

- F. Exposure at an off-site clinical practice site (e.g. Preceptorship, working with a practice or in a hospital outside of Greenville)
 1. Immediately notify the preceptor who has responsibility for your rotation.
 2. Refer to your rotation materials and/or inquire of your preceptor of the location in which you can receive immediate evaluation and treatment

3. If, in this situation, there is any uncertainty, please report to the nearest Emergency Department and have them contact the ECU Office of Prospective Health (744-2070 or 744-3545 from 7:45 PM to 4:45 PM) regarding protocol and follow up.
4. Any evaluation and treatment done at a facility outside of Vidant Medical Center or ECU Office of Prospective Health must be reported and records sent to the ECU Office of Prospective Health as soon as possible after the exposure, in order to arrange appropriate follow up and tracking.

Evaluation and Treatment Costs

Care that is provided by Vidant Medical Center Occupational Health or by ECU Prospective Health will involve no charge to the student.

Care provided in the Vidant Medical Center Emergency Department will involve no charge to the student as charges will be billed to the BSOM Department of Prospective Health. Students seen for BBP exposures should tell the patient representative that they are a medical student and have been instructed to not make a copay.

Care provided by an outlying hospital Emergency Department will likely involve a co-pay, and you will need to be sure to carry your insurance card with you, so that insurance can be filed and reduce your out of pocket costs.