

## College of Nursing University of Rhode Island

### **POLICY ON CONTROL OF BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN EXPOSURE**

*Purpose:*

To prevent the transmission bloodborne infectious diseases, such as Hepatitis B and HIV infection.

*Policy:*

All faculty and students must use universal precautions to prevent skin and mucous-membrane exposure when contact with blood or other body fluids is anticipated. These precautions must be used routinely in all laboratory and clinical settings throughout the semester.

1. Hands must be washed before and after all anticipated or actual contact in laboratory or clinical settings. Hands and other skin surfaces must be washed immediately and thoroughly if contaminated with blood and/or other body fluids.
2. Gloves must be worn for touching blood and body fluids, mucous membranes, or non-intact skin of all contacts, for handling items or surfaces soiled with blood or body fluids and for performing venipuncture and other vascular access procedures.
3. Cover gowns must be worn during procedures that are likely to generate splashes of blood or other body fluids. Moisture resistant gowns are preferred.
4. Protective face wear must be worn during procedures that are likely to generate droplets of blood, body fluids containing visible blood, or other fluids to which universal precautions apply, to prevent exposure of mucous membranes of the mouth, nose, and eyes. Sharp objects must be handled in such a manner to prevent accidental cuts or punctures. Used needles must be disposed of in puncture resistant containers as close to the area of use as possible.
5. To minimize the need for emergency mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, mouth pieces, resuscitation bags, or other ventilation devices must be used in areas where the need for resuscitation (CPR) is predictable according to agency policy.
6. Faculty and students with open cuts or rashes must wear gloves when practicing or performing nursing care activities and/or handling body fluids.
7. In the event of a needle stick accident, a human bite wound, an exposure of an open wound to blood/body fluids, or a mucous membrane/ocular exposure to blood/body fluids, the exposed area must immediately be washed. The accident must immediately be reported according to College of Nursing policy and/or appropriate agency policy.
8. Double bio-hazard bags will be used in all Category I job classification areas for biohazardous waste.
9. Bio-hazardous waste collection and disposal will be according to University OSHA regulations through the URI Department of Safety and Risk Management, Ext. 2592.

10. Procedures for handwashing, handling contaminated material, and use of personal protective equipment are posted, and on the videos *Hand Hygiene and Gloving* and *Universal Precautions* stored in video file in the Media Center.
11. Hepatitis B Vaccine, is available through the University Health Services. Students that may have exposure during laboratory or clinical practice must sign a declination from if they choose not to be vaccinated.
12. Exposure Determination according to the Occupational Safety and health Administration recommends the following:  
Category I: Those personnel who come in direct contact with blood and body fluids of which precautions must be taken. Faculty and students working in laboratory and clinical settings are classified Category I.
13. Faculty and students using Skills Laboratories must follow all appropriate procedures.
14. Review of this policy and procedures will be included in CON faculty orientation along with supplemental materials and/or video. The Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Plan will be reviewed annually and made available to the faculty. These will be posted along with OSHA Regulations.

Source: Section 23 of the General Laws of Rhode Island and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Standards/Regulations.

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