Appendix 12.8.2 Policy on Students Infected With Bloodborne and Other Pathogens

Whole Health School of Medicine

Policy on Students Infected With Blood Borne and Other Pathogens

I. POLICY

While it is essential to ensure the rights of students at WHSOM regarding their health status, it is equally important to protect patients seeking care within their care. It is the basic premise of this policy that patients should not be exposed to blood borne pathogens by WHSOM students.

When it becomes known that a student at WHSOM is infected with a potentially transmissible blood borne or other pathogen, a health advisory council meeting will be organized by the Associate Dean for Student Affairs to review the student’s duties considering the nature of the activity, risk factors involved, and transmissibility of infectious agents. Drawing upon consultations as needed, this council will formulate a judgment as to whether modification of clinical training or patient contacts should be limited in any way.

Infection with a blood borne pathogen should not require restrictions on rendering care to patients in most circumstances. However, special considerations may be appropriate when exposure-prone invasive procedures are performed. Infected individuals are allowed to participate only in those clinical activities that do not result in risks to patients.

Infection with pathogens that are prone to other modes of transmission, such as respiratory droplet transmission, may require restrictions on rendering care to patients, and may also require restriction from participation in in-person course activities. The scope of permissible activities before, during and after treatment will be determined by the health advisory council with input from appropriate clinical experts.

The identity of the infected student will be kept confidential.

Record of the advisory council’s review and recommendations will be kept in the student’s confidential file.

II. PURPOSE

Medical students who are infected with a blood borne pathogen or other pathogen may participate in the medical education program. This policy addresses the effects of blood borne and other pathogen infections on medical student learning activities.
III. SCOPE
This policy applies to:
• Medical students

IV. POLICY AUTHOR(S)
• Office of Student Affairs

V. RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
None

VI. REFERENCES
LCME Element 12.8: Student Exposure Policies/Procedures.
A medical school has policies in place that effectively address medical student exposure to infectious and environmental hazards, including the following:

● The education of medical students about methods of prevention
● The procedures for care and treatment after exposure, including a definition of financial responsibility
● The effects of infectious and environmental disease or disability on medical student learning activities

All registered medical students (including visiting students) are informed of these policies before undertaking any educational activities that would place them at risk.

VII. APPROVALS
Dean, School of Medicine