SECTION: Medical Student

SUBJECT: Needle Sticks and Bodily Fluid Exposures

ISSUE OR REVISION DATE: June 30, 2017

INITIATED BY: Office of Student Affairs

APPROVED BY: Annette C. Rebolli, M.D., Interim Dean

PURPOSE: To provide post-exposure procedure to be followed for needle sticks and bodily fluid exposure including, but not limited to needle sticks, sharps, splashes and related events. Please also refer to Student Healthcare Services Policy.

POLICY: Access to immediate assessment, counseling and treatment will be available to students incurring exposure to potentially infectious bodily fluids or blood via needle sticks or other accidental contact.

SCOPE: All CMSRU students and visiting students.

DEFINITIONS: Prophylaxis-intervention used to preserve health and prevent spread of disease.

PROCEDURE: Drug prophylaxis following a high-risk exposure is time-sensitive, therefore it is important to follow appropriate procedure to determine need for initiation of prophylaxis. Any medical student who sustains a needle stick or other wound resulting in exposure to blood or bodily fluids should follow the following protocol:

- Immediately wash the affected area with soap and water and cover the area with a dressing if possible
- For an ocular exposure, flush thoroughly with water
- Inform the supervising resident or physician
- Obtain source patient information if known (name and medical record number).
- If there is an exposure Monday through Friday 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM, please call the Worknet number (856-333-0350) and identify yourself as a Cooper Medical School of Rowan University student. Their office is located at 300 Broadway, Suite #101; Camden, NJ
- If there is an exposure outside of these hours go directly to the Cooper Emergency Department.
- Always identify yourself as a medical student who has just sustained an exposure
- You will see a health care provider who is trained in assessing the risk of the exposure. You will receive post-exposure counseling and drug treatment/prophylaxis, if appropriate. If indicated, you will be given a starter pack of the prophylactic drugs which are recommended in accordance with the current guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Base-line blood tests will be performed on you as appropriate
- The treating physician will contact the attending physician of the source patient to expedite the process of getting consent to test the source patient
- You will be given a schedule as to when to return to Worknet

There is no cost to the student for any care surrounding an exposure event occurring while a student at a CMSRU affiliated institution.

Should an exposure result in contraction of disease or disability, the student will be allowed to continue in the program to the extent that he or she does not pose a risk to self or others, based on their official activities. CMSRU will do everything possible to provide that student with the resources needed to continue their education. Every student enrolled at CMSRU is required to have disability insurance and that is a resource in these instances. Should a student need to take a prolonged leave from the educational program due to such an exposure, CMSRU will work to assure that the time missed in the educational program does not result in an increased cost of attendance over the course of study.