

Immunisation and Blood-borne Viruses Policy

The aim of this Policy is to minimise the risk of students contracting or spreading an infectious or blood-borne disease. The Policy accords with the Guidelines established by the Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand.

All students enrolled in the Faculty of Medicine have a responsibility to comply with the specific requirements set out in the Policy. Students must understand their responsibilities to protect themselves as individuals and their responsibilities to protect patients from the hazards of blood borne and other infectious diseases. Information concerning the Policy will be accessible to students prior to and throughout their enrolment.

All medical students are registered with the Medical Board of Australia. This Board requires that all practitioners (including medical students) know their own status in relation to blood borne viruses.

All students should have access to medical advice, either in the teaching hospitals to which they are assigned or through an occupational health and safety service, if they are exposed to infectious diseases during the course of their clinical training.

Students are also expected to understand and practice appropriate infection control measures during all clinical experiences.

Immunisation of Students

Immunisation of students should be in accordance with the standard recommendations of the National Health and Medical Research Council as documented in the Australian Immunisation Handbook.

Furthermore all students are required to comply with the requirements of NSW Health policy directive on Occupational Assessment, Screening and Vaccination against Specified Infectious Diseases. This policy stipulates requirements for testing and immunisation for specified infectious diseases.

Students will be required to provide documentary evidence of immunisation status for specified infectious diseases prior to commencing clinical placements. Students who are unable to provide the required evidence will be excluded from clinical placements. Failure to complete required training in clinical placements will result in failure of a course.

Students who for medical reasons cannot receive specific vaccines or who fail to respond to vaccination may require modification to their clinical training activities in hospitals.

Blood-borne Viruses & Medical Students

Medical students are required to be aware of their status in relation to blood-borne viruses including HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C prior to enrolment.

Students who engage in at risk behaviour or suspect that they may have been infected with a blood borne virus at any time during the program have an ethical duty to seek testing and counselling.

Students who are infected with HIV, hepatitis B or hepatitis C should be informed of their rights and responsibilities. Infected students are not required to disclose their status to the Faculty.

Infected students must exclude themselves from participating in exposure-prone procedures. Any infected medical student who knowingly undertakes an exposure-prone procedure will be reported to the Medical Board of Australia.

Infected students are encouraged to inform the Student Affairs Coordinator or Dean of their status and to seek counselling in relation to personal health measures and training and vocational issues.

No student will be discriminated against nor prevented from continuing their studies as a result of disclosing their status.

The Faculty recognises the right of infected students to confidentiality and will neither coerce nor contrive to determine a student's status. Students may choose to decline to participate in exposure prone procedures without inference to their status.