



Clinical Staff Executive Committee

MEDICAL CENTER POLICY NO. 0117

A. SUBJECT: Testing for HIV and Hepatitis Viruses Following Certain Exposures to Blood or Body Fluids

B. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012 (Rvd)

C. POLICY:

The Medical Center complies with Virginia law requirements for deemed consent to blood testing following healthcare worker, patient, law enforcement officer, salaried or volunteer firefighter, paramedic, or emergency medical technician exposures to blood or body fluids that may transmit the HIV or hepatitis B and C virus. These requirements include notification of patients regarding deemed consent procedures, providing HIV and hepatitis viruses testing and providing the opportunity for appropriate face-to-face and post-test counseling.

D. DEFINITIONS:

1. Healthcare Worker: As used in this Policy, a healthcare worker is (1) any person, including a student or trainee, who engages in activities at the Medical Center involving contact with patients or with blood or other body fluids from patients at the time of the exposure, (2) any person who renders emergency care or assistance, without compensation and in good faith, at the scene of an accident, fire, or any life-threatening emergency, or while en route from such scene to any hospital, medical clinic, or doctor's office while rendering such emergency care or assistance (Good Samaritan) and (3) any person who has been trained to provide emergency medical services under the auspices of a volunteer or paid Emergency Medical Services agency (EMS personnel).
2. Law Enforcement Officer: Law enforcement officer means a person who is both engaged in his/her public duty at the time of an exposure and who is employed by a sheriff's office, any adult or youth correctional facility, or any state or local law-enforcement agency, or any agency or department under the direction and control of the Commonwealth or any local governing body that employs persons who have law-enforcement authority.

E. PROCEDURE:

1. Healthcare worker/patient exposure:

a. If:

- (i) a healthcare worker has been exposed to a patient's blood or body fluids, or

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- (ii) a patient has been exposed to the blood or body fluids of a healthcare worker in a manner that may transmit HIV or hepatitis B or C virus, the source individual shall be deemed to have consented to testing for infection with HIV or hepatitis B or C virus and to the release of such test results to the exposed individual.

Except in an emergency, patients shall be informed of this requirement prior to the provision of healthcare services which creates a risk of such exposure.

- b. The patient and healthcare worker shall be informed of the results of testing of the individual who is the source of the possible infection. The patient and healthcare worker shall be provided the opportunity for appropriate face-to-face pre- and post-test counseling¹ following receipt of the test results. This counseling shall be documented in the healthcare worker's Employee Health medical record, if the healthcare worker is an employee of the University, and in the patient's medical record.
2. Law enforcement officer, salaried or volunteer firefighter, paramedic or emergency medical technician/person exposures:
 - a. If
 - (i) a law enforcement officer, salaried or volunteer firefighter, paramedic or emergency medical technician has been exposed to a person's blood or body fluids, or
 - (ii) a person has been exposed to a law enforcement officer's, salaried or volunteer firefighter's, paramedic's or emergency medical technician's blood or body fluids in a manner that may transmit HIV or hepatitis B or C virus, the source individual shall be deemed to have consented to testing for infection with HIV and hepatitis B and C viruses and to the release of test results to the exposed individual.
 - b. The law enforcement officer, salaried or volunteer firefighter, paramedic or emergency medical technician and the person shall be informed of the results of testing of the individual who is the source of the possible infection and shall be provided the opportunity for appropriate face-to-face pre-and post-test counseling.¹ This counseling shall be documented in the medical records of the source and exposed individuals.
 3. If a source individual to whom this Policy applies refuses to provide a blood specimen for testing, any person potentially exposed to the HIV or hepatitis B or C viruses or the employer of such person, may petition the general district court of the county or city in which the source individual resides for an order requiring the source individual to provide a blood specimen for testing.²

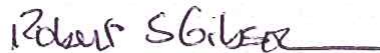
Additional procedures to implement the requirements of this Policy can be found at the Infection Control website: <http://tinyurl.com/IPCmanual>

¹ Appropriate counseling shall include, but not be limited to, the meaning of the test results, the need for additional testing, the etiology, prevention and effects of bloodborne pathogens, the availability of appropriate healthcare, mental healthcare and social services, the need to notify any person who may have been exposed to the virus and the availability of assistance through the Virginia Department of Health in notifying such individuals.

² See Virginia Code § 32.1-45.1 (H.).

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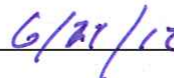
SIGNATURE:



Robert S. Gibson, M.D., President Clinical Staff



R. Edward Howell, CEO, UVA Medical Center



DATE:

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Approved June 28, 1989

Revised November 1989, August 1990, September 1993, September 1996, September 1998,

August 2002, October 2005, December 2008, June 2009

Reviewed June 2012

Approved by Infection Control Subcommittee and Quality Committee

Approved by Clinical Staff Executive Committee