

Immunisation and Blood-borne Viruses

At all stages of your medical training and subsequent medical practice, you will be exposed to patients with infectious diseases. It is essential that you protect yourself and prevent the transmission of infections to other patients. The Faculty of Medicine has implemented the *Immunisation and Blood-borne Viruses Policy*, which aims to minimise the risk of medical students contracting or spreading an infectious disease or blood-borne virus, such as HIV, and Hepatitis B or C.

Compliance with this Policy will ensure that you can undertake clinical placements in teaching hospitals, which are administered by NSW Health, and which commence early in 1st Year.

All students are required to sign a statement indicating that they have read and agree to comply with the Policy at enrolment.

Blood-borne viruses

All students in the Medicine program could ordinarily be expected to undertake exposure-prone procedures during their clinical training and all students must know their status for blood-borne viruses.

Prior to commencing clinical studies, you must be tested for HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C. You are also required to have these tests repeated if you have been potentially exposed under any circumstances.

The results of these tests are confidential and there is no requirement or expectation that you inform the Faculty if tests confirm that you have an infection with a blood-borne virus. However an infected student should seek advice from an appropriate specialist to determine how this may affect clinical training and future options for professional practice.

A student who is aware that he/she has a blood-borne virus infection must not undertake exposure-prone procedures. Any infective student who knowingly undertakes an exposure-prone procedure or any student who in any other way endangers the health of patients will be reported to the Medical Board, which may refer the complaint to the Board's Impaired Practitioner Program. The Board may prohibit or restrict the student's right to undertake clinical studies or practice. Such a student would also be liable to criminal prosecution if a blood-borne virus is knowingly transmitted. Depending on the circumstances, the student could also be subject to the University's Student Misconduct Rules.

Immunisation requirements of NSW Health for clinical placements

Students on clinical placements in teaching hospitals of the UNSW are required to comply with the NSW Health policy on *Occupational Assessment, Screening and Vaccination against Specified Infectious Diseases*.

To comply with the requirements for the listed infectious diseases in this policy, you will need to provide the following documentation:

Infectious disease	Acceptable evidence to demonstrate protection
Tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis	One documented dose of adult dTpa vaccine (e.g. Boostrix)
Hepatitis B	Documented evidence of a completed, age appropriate, course of hepatitis B vaccine <u>and</u> documented evidence of anti-HBs \geq 10mIU/mL; OR Documented evidence of past hepatitis B infection (anti-HBc).
Measles, mumps and rubella	Birth date before 1966; OR Documented evidence of 2 doses of MMR vaccine at least one month apart; OR Documented evidence of positive IgG for measles, mumps and rubella.
Varicella	History of chickenpox; OR Documentation of physician-diagnosed shingles; OR Documented evidence of a positive varicella IgG; OR Documented evidence of age appropriate varicella vaccination.
Tuberculosis	Documentation of Mantoux (tuberculin skin) test

Students who are unable to meet the requirements of the NSW Health policy because of medical contraindications or who fail to respond to a vaccine may have their clinical training program modified depending on the circumstances.

Students who fail to comply with the NSW Health Policy will be excluded from clinical placements and will not be able to complete the requirements of the program.

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