

7.8 Needle Stick Policy

(Revised 6/12/2022)

Guidelines Following a contaminated Needle Stick or Hazardous Exposure to Blood, Blood Products, or Body Fluids while in Clinical Learning Experiences

The University of Texas at Tyler School of Nursing (SON) faculty endorse the following “Guidelines Following a contaminated Needle Stick or Hazardous Exposure to Blood, Blood Products, or Body Fluids while in Clinical Learning Experiences.” Clinical learning sites include hospitals, clinics, physicians’ offices, patients’ homes, schools, skills labs, and other settings where students learn and apply nursing care/skills.

All students are responsible for obtaining their own health insurance and are responsible for the costs of medical/health care assessment, treatment, and follow-up that are not covered by the student’s health insurance. Students should be aware of the coverage on their health insurance policy, as most may not cover the total cost of required medical treatment and services in the case of a needle stick or hazardous exposure to blood or blood products.

Students exposed to needle sticks or potentially infectious blood, blood products, or body fluids should be evaluated and have treatment initiated within 2 hours according to established criteria that conform to federal and state law and Center for Disease Control (CDC) standards. The treatment/management guidelines are as follows:

Treatment/Management Guidelines

Immediately upon receiving a contaminated needle stick or exposure to blood, blood products, or body fluids, **the student will:**

1. Report the incident to the clinical faculty member/preceptor and the appropriate person in the clinical agency.
2. Complete the appropriate institutional incident report.
3. **Follow institutional protocols regarding wound care and reporting procedures. Clinical faculty should be notified as soon as reasonably possible.**
4. Seek treatment intervention from the Campus Health Center or a private health care provider **within 2 hours of the exposure incident.**

Based on the information provided to the health care provider, baseline lab values and chemoprophylaxis may be ordered. In responding to an incident in which a student experiences a contaminated needle stick or exposure to blood, blood products, or body fluids, **the clinical faculty will:**

1. Verify that appropriate wound care has been initiated.
2. Counsel the student to seek follow-up care at the Campus Health Center or his/her private health care provider.

3. Advise the student to consult the Campus Health Center's Treatment Protocol (available in the Campus Health Center) or the CDC for follow-up on contaminated needle sticks or exposures to blood, blood products, or body fluids should he/she choose to seek a private health care provider.
4. Assist the student in completing any administrative paperwork that may be required.