

Bloodborne Viruses and Medical Students

The responsibilities of all parties are outlined below. All professional groups and authorities identified in this section must understand that whilst discharging their respective responsibilities, healthcare workers, including students, have a right to expect that their confidentiality will be respected and protected. Any unauthorised disclosure about the BBV status of a student, employee or patient constitutes a breach of confidence and may lead to disciplinary action.

Occupational Health Unit

The OHU should:

- Offer advice to the medical school on policy and practice in this area.
- Arrange and coordinate screening and provide ongoing monitoring where considered appropriate.
- Ensure the necessary confidential standards and procedures are in place including appropriate pre-test and post-test advice and discussions in the context of the individual's professional responsibilities
- Explain the definition of an EPP to students.
- Inform the medical school Dean or his/her named designate, as appropriate, whether an individual student is, or is not, eligible to undertake EPPs.
- Offer advice, guidance and support to students, including information on how to avoid the risk of BBV infection occupationally, during certain electives or lifestyle choices.
- Advise students with respect to appropriate treatment and, where appropriate, monitoring arrangements in full consultation with the student's General Practitioner (GP).
- Ensure that students who test positive for a BBV will be placed under the guidance of a Consultant Occupational Health physician who will facilitate referral to an appropriate specialist, in full consultation with the student's GP. Medical and regular blood monitoring will be carried out in accordance with the current guidelines issues jointly by MSC, DSC, PHE, HPS, AUKUH and HEOPS. Appropriate feedback to the Medical School will be from the Occupational Physician.
- Liaise with NHS occupational health services, where necessary, in the event of a sharps injury when the student is on a placement and ensure appropriate follow up testing of medical students, as per accepted protocol

School (the Administrator and Head of welfare)

The Medical School must:

- Take responsibility for the welfare of BBV positive students, with advice from Occupational Health who will ensure that adjustments can be made to their clinical training where necessary and that appropriate follow-up and monitoring arrangements are put in place.
- Take responsibility for ensuring that all appropriate arrangements are in place for managing EPP-ineligible students.
- Inform health provider organisations' CEOs or his/her named designate as appropriate about those students who are not cleared for EPPs and agree the appropriate adjustments to their clinical training programmes.
- Ensure that students understand what constitutes an EPP, and that they are aware of the guidance as detailed in *Medical Students: professional values and fitness to practise* (General Medical Council and Medical Schools Council, November 2009).

- Ensure that an EPP-ineligible student is aware that failure to comply with the restrictions placed on their practice might constitute a fitness to practise concern.
- Ensure that Postgraduate Deans are aware of students who are not cleared for EPPs.
- Provide EPP-ineligible student with a written statement setting out agreed arrangements
- The school will ensure that the Year Directors, all academic staff and students are aware of up-to-date guidance.
- It is the responsibility of the Medical School to advise the placement supervisor that the student is not cleared for EPPs and thus they cannot be put in a situation where they are encouraged to become directly involved in EPPs.

Student

Every student should be aware of their BBV status. It is their responsibility to make sure that screening has been completed and that all immunisations are up to date. Failure to do so by the end of Year 1 may result in failure to progress to Year 2.

Students who become at risk of infection after initial screening through high risk activities or accidents must seek relevant medical and OH advice as soon as possible after the incident.

Students who are not cleared for EPPs:

- Must communicate with the Medical School Administrator and the Head of Student Welfare, and meet with them at agreed times.
- Must not put themselves and others in a situation that is difficult or too embarrassing to get out of. They should be confident to excuse themselves from direct involvement in EPP where several people may be present.
- Must conform with all Occupational Health monitoring including regular retesting if required.
- Must be aware that failure to comply with the restrictions placed on them might constitute a fitness to practice concern.

Year Director

Year Directors will ensure that all Educational Supervisors are aware that there are students who are not cleared to undertake EPPs. This number is small approximately two a year.

Educational Supervisors in clinical settings

Educational supervisors must be aware that some students are not cleared to undertake EPPs they should create opportunities for apprenticeship learning for medical students. They should invite involvement beyond observation in such a way that students can decline without embarrassment or disadvantage.