

# Procedures to Be Followed In The Event Of Workplace Injury: London Campus

What to do in the event of injury involving patient body substances, fluids (e.g. needlestick or laceration injury) in the clinical setting.

A workplace injury includes exposure to communicable diseases and exposure such as puncture wounds, from the blood or body fluids of patients, or any other injury.

Although we expect all medical students to exercise universal precautions when dealing with patients, we know that occasionally accidents happen and you could be exposed to bodily fluids inadvertently.

Here's what you do if this happens to you:

## **TELL**

1. Tell your immediate supervisor about the incident as soon as it occurs.
2. First Aid Treatment should be administered immediately.
  - a. For Percutaneous/Puncture Wound injuries:
    - i. Remove gloves
    - ii. Encourage bleeding from the wound
    - iii. Wash the site with copious amounts of running water
  - b. For Fluid Exposures to mucous Membranes (eye, nose, mouth):
    - i. Flush well with water.
    - ii. Eye exposure must be flushed at an eye wash station.
3. Clinical supervisors, responsible for the student, will work with the student in gathering as much information regarding the patient involved with the needle stick injury to determine evidence of blood-borne infection.
4. Depending on where your injury takes place, please follow the guidelines below:

## **GO**

Western University Student Health Services for off-site or non-hospital related incidents

Typically Pre-Clerkship years 1 & 2

- Go immediately to Health Services-Workplace Health, Room 25, University Community Centre (located within Student Health Services) for injuries that occur between 8:30-4pm and provide a copy of the Accident/Incident Reporting Form completed by your supervisor at the site of the injury.
- The student should identify him/herself to the Workplace Health receptionist as a medical student with a percutaneous injury. The receptionist will immediately arrange for consultation with one of the nurses. Please note that there can be a wait time for a nurse. Please wait until you see the nurse.
- The nurse will determine, in conjunction with the Director of Student Health, an appropriate course of management and will arrange for appropriate lab work, medication and follow-up as required.
- Additional medical history and accident particulars will be collected by the nurse during counselling.
- Follow up medical appointments will be arranged by the nurse and the injured student.
  - For injuries that occur after 4pm, the student must be directed to the Emergency Department at the London Health Sciences Centre. The Learner Equity & Wellness office can provide the student with the following information: Letter from the Dean of Schulich Medicine addressed to the

Emergency Department, LHSC to identify him/herself as receiving a percutaneous injury in an offsite clinical setting.

- Student to follow up with Health Services-Workplace Health on the next business day.
- Please inform the Assistant Dean, Learner Equity & Wellness (Undergraduate) or Manager of Learner Equity & Wellness office in order that we can support you through this process (519-661-4234)