

SUNY DOWNSTATE MEDICAL CENTER

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Department: College of Medicine

Subject: This policy describes the effects of infectious and environmental disease or disability on medical student learning activities.

Prepared by: Pamela Sass, MD, Vice Dean for Education

Reviewed by: Michael Augenbraun, MD Director of Infectious Disease Division, University Hospital of Brooklyn
Mona Pervil-Ulyse, MD Director Student Health Services
Jeffrey Putman, EdD, Vice President of Student Affairs

Approved by: Dean's Council for Education

Distribution: X Office of Education

X Student Affairs

X Student Health Services

Dean's Council

Implementation Date: TBD

Purpose: This policy describes the effects of infectious and environmental disease or disability on medical student learning activities.

Policy:

1. The College of Medicine abides by the following center-wide policy on blood borne infectious or communicable diseases (see Section 20 of SUNY Downstate Medical Center UHB Policies and Procedures): and shall not discriminate against any person on the basis of any communicable diseases. The College may not require a test for verification of HIV status or other communicable diseases for the purpose of attaining or maintaining academic admission or continued matriculation.
2. The College of Medicine shall maintain confidentiality regarding communicable diseases of its students in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations and in accordance with all policies and procedures of SUNY Downstate Medical Center.
3. For students who have blood borne infectious disease, the risk of transmission to patients increases with the invasiveness of the procedure provided by the student and his/her viral load. The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) has issued guidelines for the above infections in healthcare workers, including students. The full report may be accessed at "Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology", March 2012, Vol. 31, No. 3. There are three categories of healthcare-associated procedures according to risk of transmission:
 - I. Procedures with de minimus risk of bloodborne virus transmission.
 - II. Procedures for which bloodborne virus infection is theoretically possible but unlikely.
 - III. Procedures for which there is definite risk of bloodborne virus transmission or that have been classified previously as "exposure-prone".

An expert panel may be convened to counsel students who are known to have infectious medical conditions to reduce the risk to the student and to patients. This expert panel will consist of a faculty member from the Department of Infectious Diseases, a faculty member knowledgeable about the educational activities in which the student will participate, and the Director of the Student Health Service. This panel will review the educational activities of the student and will make recommendations regarding the prevention of harm to patients and the protection from harm to the student. They may consult others with expertise to assist in making the recommendations. The recommendations from the panel will be reported to the Office of Student Affairs which will assure that the recommendations are carried out. All persons involved in this process will maintain confidentiality of student information and only those persons with a need to know will be informed of the recommendations.

4. No person shall be subject to adverse education actions or removed from educational experiences solely because of a non-task related disability. Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with communicable disease consistent with the current state of knowledge on transmission of infection.