

7.8 Needle Stick and/or Exposure Policy

(Revised 10/11/2022, Revised 11/3/2023)

Guidelines: Following a contaminated Needle Stick or Hazardous Exposure to Blood, Blood Products, or Body Fluids while in Clinical Learning Experiences, including the Simulation Labs.

The faculty of The University of Texas at Tyler School of Nursing (SON) endorses 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 may 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 or 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:

1. Wash human bites with soap and water.
2. Wash needlesticks and cuts with soap and water.
3. Flush splashes to nose, mouth, or skin with water.
4. Irrigate eyes with clean water, saline, or sterile wash.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2007-157/default.html>

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, plus complete the SON Clinical Incident Report Form attached to this policy. This form is to be completed for incidents in the Simulation Lab as well. The SON Clinical Incident Report Form is for the SON and is not to be given to the Clinical Facility (you will need to complete both forms.)
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, the clinical facility where the incident occurred, 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.
5. Upload completed SON Clinical Incident Report Form to EAB.



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School of Nursing Clinical/Incident Report Form

Name: _____

Date of Report: _____ Date of Incident: _____ Time of Incident: _____

Instructor Supervising at the Time of Incident: _____

Location Occurred, Circle One: Clinical/Simulation/Skills Lab/Nursing Building/Other: _____

Circle One: Student/Visitor/Faculty/Staff Persons Affected: Single person or Multiple Injury

Type of Incident (Mark all that apply):

Injury to Self/Staff (Needle Stick, Fall), Student Exposure (blood, body fluids, etc.)

Damage to Lab Equipment

Other: _____

Actions Taken:

Use of First Aid Kit

Use of AED

Use of Stop the Bleed Kit

EMS Called

Other

Brief Narrative of Event:

Report Completed By: _____

Student's Instructor Notified: Date: _____ Time: _____

Program Director Notified: Date: _____ Time: _____

Recommended Follow-Up:

Additional Instruction, Remediation

Schedule Re-Test by: _____

Other: _____