



# Safety and Infection Control Policy

## **Background and Purpose:**

There are inherent health and safety risks associated with health care delivery. It is the purpose of this policy to outline practices which will be observed to limit injury and infection associated with training activities in the UC Physician Assistant program and to define procedures which are to be followed when incidents which cause injury or pose a threat of infection occur.

## **Policy Statement:**

1. It is the policy of the UC Physician Assistant Program to follow the guidelines and recommendations made by the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) and the [Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\)](#) regarding the use of Standard Precautions to prevent the spread of infection and reduce occupational exposure to blood and body fluid pathogens. Standard Precautions include: 1) hand hygiene, 2) use of personal protective equipment (gloves, gowns, masks, etc), 3) safe injection practices, 4) safe handling of potentially contaminated surfaces or equipment, and 5) respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette.
2. Before any patient care or laboratory experiences occur, including learning activities conducted on-campus, students will be provided training regarding the nature of any potential hazards associated with the experience and Standard Precautions and safety procedures which are to be utilized for chemical hazard safety and bloodborne pathogens exposure control.
3. Students will be required to complete any clinical site specific safety or security training requirements in preparation for supervised clinical practice rotations.
4. Program faculty will participate in new employee and annual refresher chemical

hazard safety and bloodborne pathogen Standard Precaution training with emphasis on practices and procedures which ensure student safety during educational activities.

5. All training activities regarding safety and bloodborne pathogens exposure control will be documented in the program's student record.
6. All faculty, staff and students will utilize Standard Precautions during all activities which present a risk of exposure to blood/body fluids or chemical hazards. Failure to do so will be grounds for disciplinary action.
7. When hazardous exposure to chemical agents or blood or body fluids occurs, the incident is to be immediately reported after initial first aid/safety procedures to limit injury and risk of infection have been completed (e.g. thorough hand washing, flushing of mucous membranes, etc.).
  - a. Events that occur on campus are to be reported to the Program Director.
  - b. Events which occur at a clinical training site are to be immediately reported to the preceptor and subsequently reported to the program's Director of Clinical Education within 48 hours.
8. Medical evaluation and treatment of injuries and/or to evaluate/limit the risk of infection should be conducted at:
  - a. (CAMPUS INCIDENTS) The student's primary care provider, the nearest healthcare facility, or the nearest emergency department.
  - b. (CLINICAL SITE INCIDENTS) Go to the location directed by the clinical site when incidents occur during a supervised clinical practice rotation.
  - c. (EMERGENCY INJURIES) Call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room.
9. Students will be financially responsible for all costs incurred during compliance with this policy.
10. Continued participation in the program will not be affected by any injury or illness that occurs while enrolled provided the student continues to meet all Technical Standards and fulfill all defined requirements for program progression

## **ARC-PA Associated Standards:**

- **A1.02** The sponsoring institution is responsible for:
  - g) documenting appropriate security and personal safety measures for

PA students and faculty in all locations where instruction occurs,

- **A3.08** The program must define, publish, make readily available and consistently apply policies addressing student exposure to infectious and environmental hazards before students undertake any educational activities which would place them at risk. Those policies must:
  - a) address methods of prevention,
  - b) address procedures for care and treatment after exposure, and
  - c) clearly define financial responsibility.