

Policy for medical students/residents who are infected with blood borne infection

This policy relates to medical students and residents at the school of medicine, university of Jordan, who are infected with one or more of a blood-borne disease. These pathogens include but are not limited to Hepatitis C Virus and who are antibody positive, (HCV); Hepatitis B Virus and who are surface antigen positive, (HBV); or Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

Status and Testing

- All students are oriented on standards universal precautions. Students are offered hepatitis B vaccine
- No student or resident shall be denied acceptance into the medical school or residency programs on the basis of HIV, HBV, or HCV serostatus.
- Evaluation for admission and continuation in the programs will focus on whether the individual in his or her current state of health will be able to successfully complete the essential elements of the educational program.
- Routine screening of students for HBV, HCV and HIV is required before entering the clinical years. Students at risk for infection due to behaviors outside the university or work are encouraged to seek repeated appropriate testing and counseling through their personal physician.
- It is the responsibility of the individual medical student or resident who suspects that he or she may be at risk for HIV, HBV, or HCV infection to repeat tests and to ascertain his or her serostatus.

Reporting and Confidentiality

- Medical students or residents infected with HCV, HBV, or HIV have a professional responsibility to report their serostatus to a member of the Dean Office in the Medical School. Failure to self-report is basis for disciplinary action by the Medical School.

- The clinical sites where students and residents train also may have reporting requirements depending on the procedures and activities to be performed by the medical student or resident.
- Should the Dean feel that others need to be informed, s/he will work with the student in a confidential manner to encourage the student to inform that person or office. Should a student with HIV/AIDS wish to have his or her medical condition known to others, the student may do so.
- Since HIV, HBV are reportable diseases, the Dean must report AIDS to the Ministry of Health when a case comes to his/her attention.

Exposure-prone invasive procedures

- Universal Precautions (safety guidelines for handling blood and body fluids) shall be standard procedure in all settings.
- All reasonable accommodations will be made for any students who tested positive for any blood borne pathogen to continue study.
- The student will be counseled by infection disease specialist and the dean regarding appropriate actions and behaviors.
- Students and residents who wish to perform exposure-prone invasive procedures at a clinical site as part of their education and training must comply with disclosure and infection control requirements at that site.
- If students' responsibilities could result in exposing other to HIV, hepatitis B, Hepatitis C or another bloodborne pathogen, or compromise the student's health status, the dean will determine any possible restriction in activities.
- The deanship shall maintain confidentiality regarding the blood born pathogen status of students to the extent provided by law.
- The option, that may preserve greater confidentiality for the student or resident is to restructure the clinical experience to avoid participation in any exposure-prone procedures. The Dean's office will work with the affected student or resident and the clinical site(s) to help shape the appropriate educational experience.
- In the event that there is transmission of a bloodborne pathogen from an infected student involved in performing invasive procedure, dean may initiate a "look back" investigation. Involved patients will be offered testing, counseling and medical evaluation. Cases are considered on an individual basis.

Counseling Policy:

The medical school recognized that it is possible for an individual infected with HCV, HBV and/or HIV to practice medicine and to practice many specialties that do not interfere by disease specific restrictions.

School will provide assistance to any students infected with these diseases to complete their study requirements but with considerations that it believes in its best judgment are appropriate to the circumstances of each individual case.