

Policy 2.1.6 UAMS COM Undergraduate Medical Education
Section Learning Environment
Title STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN INVASIVE PROCEDURES ON PATIENTS WITH BLOOD BORNE PATHOGENS
LCME Element(s) 9.3 Clinical Supervision of Medical Students; 12.8 Student Exposure Policies/Procedures
Approved By UAMS COM Curriculum Committee
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The University of Arkansas College of Medicine has an official policy concerning the protection against occupational exposure to Hepatitis Virus and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HR.4.02):

"Since a medical history and examination cannot reliably identify all patients infected with HIV, Hepatitis B, or Hepatitis C, or other blood borne infections, "Universal/Standard Precautions" when handling blood and body fluids shall be consistently used for all patients. Students, residents and employees (hereafter known as health care worker) shall not be permitted by their supervisors to draw blood or perform invasive procedures until their skills have reached a satisfactory level of proficiency."

The College of Medicine has taken this to mean that freshmen, sophomore, and junior students are not permitted to draw blood or perform invasive procedures on patients who are known to be positive for **HIV, Hepatitis B, or Hepatitis C**. However, the greatest risk to students is probably from patients who are positive for one of the above but are not yet known to be so. This is why we stress Universal Precautions. Information on Universal Precautions will be presented to you at several times in the course of the curriculum, but if you ever have any doubts, ask! It is up to the clerkship director, and/or the student's direct supervisor on a rotation to determine if a senior student has reached the appropriate "level of proficiency" to allow the student to perform invasive procedures on patients with known HIV, Hepatitis B, or Hepatitis C infection.



Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

December 5, 2022

Date