

## **STUDENTS INFECTED WITH BLOOD BORNE PATHOGENS**

The University of Pittsburgh SOM does not deny admission to prospective students who are infected with a blood borne pathogens, unless their health status prevents the completion of essential degree requirements and no reasonable accommodations can be made. Campus officials do not inquire about the HIV status of applicants during the admissions process. However, UPSOM encourages applicants who believe they may have been exposed to blood and/or other potential infectious materials to seek medical advice and HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C testing prior to admissions. Such information may be relevant to the career decisions of applicants

While it is essential to ensure the rights of students at UPSOM regarding their health status, it is equally important to protect patients seeking care within UPMC. It is the basic premise of this policy that patients should not be exposed to blood borne pathogens by UPSOM students.

The approach to students infected with blood borne pathogens will be based upon current scientific knowledge and guidelines from the CDC.

When it becomes known that a student at UPSOM is infected with a potentially transmissible blood borne pathogen, a health advisory council meeting will be called by the current dean of student affairs, to review the student's duties considering the nature of the activity, risk factors involved, and transmissibility of infectious agents. Drawing upon consultations as needed, this council will formulate a judgment as to whether modification of clinical training. Laboratory assignments or patient contacts should be limited in any way. Infection with a blood borne pathogen should not require restrictions on rendering care to patients in most circumstances. However, special considerations may be appropriate when exposure-prone invasive procedures are performed. Infected individuals are allowed to participate only in those clinical activities that do not result in risks to themselves, patients or other students. Cases will be reviewed periodically. The identity of the infected student will be kept confidential. Record of the advisory council's review and recommendations will be kept in the student's confidential file at Student Health.

Harassment of known or suspected HIV-infected individuals is not tolerated in the medical center environment. Students participating in this form of discriminatory behavior are subject to appropriate disciplinary action. UPSOM students may not refuse to participate in the treatment of HIV-infected patients during their clinical rotations.