



Memorial  
Healthcare

## Student/Trainee Needlesticks and Other Exposures to Blood/Body Fluids Policy

During the course of a student/trainee's clinical education, he or she will come into contact with occupational hazards as a natural consequence of caring for sick patients. Students/trainees have an increased risk for injuries due to needlesticks or contact with other sharp instruments since they may not yet be skilled in the procedures being performed. At all times, if a student/trainee is uncomfortable performing an assigned procedure because they feel either that their skills are inadequate or that they need more supervision/guidance than is available, then they **MUST** refrain from doing the procedure.

**Never attempt a procedure you are uncomfortable performing.**

It is the obligation of the student/trainee's school or training program to formally educate its students/trainees regarding the prevention of occupational injuries and the handling of potentially infectious materials. In addition, the school/training program must have provided instruction so that students/trainees who are injured or exposed to blood or body fluids in the course of their training know when to seek care. Such programs must occur before the beginning of any clinical rotation at Memorial Healthcare.

In the event that a student/trainee is stuck with a needle or other sharp instrument, or sustains exposure to blood/body fluids on mucus membranes or non-intact skin, the student must report this to their supervising staff member immediately and report to the Memorial Hospital Emergency Department for evaluation and treatment.

**The student/trainee must report their injury or exposure to the supervisor/manager of the department in which the incident occurred. They will assist the student/trainee with reporting the incident through Memorial's online SafetyNet program. This reporting must be completed within 24 hours following the incident.**

The injured individual is responsible for his/her own medical expenses and should submit related medical bills to their own health insurance company for coverage. After the initial evaluation and treatment encounter in the Emergency Department, the student/trainee will subsequently follow-up with their personal physician using their own health insurance coverage.

The injured individual should be aware that their school or training program may also require the completion and submission of their own specific injury report forms.