
POLICES AND PROCEDURES REGARDING THE MANAGEMENT OF STUDENTS WITH AIDS, AIDS RELATED SYNDROMES OR OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The San Juan Bautista School of Medicine, in accordance with the Institutional regulations and a request by the Office of Student and Educational Program, Association of American Medical College, to share knowledge with other institutions, has established published and will apply these Policies and Procedures Regarding the Management of Students with AIDS, AIDS Related Syndromes or Other Communicable Diseases.

For this particular document, it shall be understood that an applicant or student will be considered as having AIDS, AIDS related syndromes or other communicable diseases when that person reports such conditions in a voluntary basis, and/or when an official health organization or institution report such situation to our Institution and/or when the student is hospitalized with such diagnosis.

In order to provide policies and procedures in an organized manner and to be able to locate the different topics easily, such policies and procedures have been divided as follows:

- I. Admission of Students
- II. Education of Students Concerning AIDS, AIDS Related Syndromes or other Communicable Diseases
- III. Managing Students with Positive Antibody for HIV
- IV. Management of Students with Clinically Manifested AIDS or ARC
- V. Confidentiality and Student Reporting of Condition
- VI. Student Interaction with Patients with AIDS
- VII. Precautions to Prevent transmission of HIV Infection or other Communicable Diseases
- VIII. Provision of Care to Students with AIDS, ARC or other Communicable Diseases
- IX. Amendments

I. Admission of Students

- A. The San Juan Bautista School of Medicine requires that the accepted applicant must present a certificate of health previous to matriculation. In addition, he/she must present a certificate for laboratory tests such as urinalysis, CBC, VDRL, a report of chest X-ray, and an immunization certificate.

- B. A candidate affected by diseases which carry a high mortality risk and/or make it unlikely for him/her to successfully complete the course of studies, will not be accepted into the entering class.
 - C. The existence of AIDS, ARC or positive HIV antibody test will not be considered as part of the initial admissions decision for applicants to the Institution as long as the individual is in a physical condition, which permits adequate participation in the required activities of the University.
 - D. Mass screening will not be performed. Exceptions may include high risk or symptomatic individuals in high-risk groups conducive to HIV transmission.
- II. Education of Students Concerning AIDS, AIDS Related Syndromes, or other Communicable Diseases
- A. During the Orientation Week, the incoming students will receive adequate information regarding AIDs, AIDS Related Syndromes, or other communicable diseases.
 - B. Students will receive specific information on HIV virus, AIDS and other communicable diseases as part of their pre-clinical training. Additionally, all students will receive training in hospital infection control standards, as part of an introduction to the hospital environment and during clinical rotations.
 - C. The University will take an active role in making available to the members of its community, current information about the transmission of AIDS, AIDS Related Syndromes and other Communicable Diseases and means of minimizing the risk of contracting them.
 - D. During the student orientation process, students who voluntarily admit to be positive for HIV antibodies will be informed of their responsibility to report his fact to the Associate Dean of Student Affairs in order to obtain medical treatment and counseling for their own protection.

III. Managing Students with Positive Antibody for HIV

- A. The activities of a student having HIV infection will not be restricted provided that their behavior and personal hygiene are acceptable. Acceptable means, among the other conditions, that they are aware of the risk of transmission of HIV by exchange of body fluids, particularly semen and blood, that they practice appropriate standards of personal hygiene including hand washing before personal contact and proper management of open lesions on the hands. Each such individual will be counseled by a member of the Office of the Associate Dean of Student Affairs concerning the appropriate safeguards and behavior expected in the school setting. Individuals, whose behavior for any reason significantly deviates from these guidelines and places patients or staff members in jeopardy, will be immediately brought before the Associate Dean for appropriate action.
- B. Students known to be infected with HIV who do not perform invasive procedures need not be restricted from school unless they have evidence of other infection or illness for which any other student would be restricted.
- C. AIDS shall be treated like any other serious communicable disease. There is presently no known reason to exclude AIDS victims from campus, social, cultural or employment activities, provided the individual behaves responsibly in light of his or her medical condition. Responsible behavior shall include acquiring information about preventing the transmissions of AIDS and proper management of the medical condition itself, and taking appropriate precautions to protect others.

IV. Management of Students with Clinically Manifested AIDS or ARC

- A. The Associate Dean in conjunction with the student's physician and subject to the policies of the participating hospitals or institutions shall determine whether the impaired student can continue in a modified program if needed for completion of his/her education, base on the capabilities of the student.
- B. If the decision is that the student may continue, the following safety measures are to be followed when he/she is involved in performing invasive procedures involving needles, scalpels or other sharp instruments:
 - 1. The student will wear double gloves

2. The preceptor will be made aware that the student is positive for HIV and must be present at any times that the student has sharp instruments in his/her hands.
 3. The student will not be permitted use of a scalpel
 4. Should the student's glove or any other part of his/her body be entered or nicked by needle or scalpel or other sharp instrument, needle, etc., will be immediately discarded without further use on the patient, and the student will retire for appropriate medical management.
- C. A regular program of testing of higher mental function will be performed on any student recognized as having AIDS or AIDS related Syndromes. A student who shows evidence of mental deterioration will be removed from those rotations where his/her frontline judgement may pose a significant threat to the patients.
- D. A student with AIDS or AIDS related syndromes, which is involved in direct patient care, shall not work with immunocompromised patients including pregnant women.

V. Confidentiality and Student Reporting of Condition

- A. Student with AIDS, AIDS related syndromes or other communicable diseases should:
1. Promptly report of his/her condition to the Associate Dean of Student Affairs.
 2. See his/her physician regularly, and authorize the physician to consult with a representative of the hospital administration and the Dean pertaining to his/her medical condition
- B. In the absence of legislation to the contrary, the existing rules and regulations concerning the confidentiality of medical record of students shall equally apply to situations involving students affected by AIDS. Such information, if known, shall not be released without the person's permission, except as otherwise required by law. This statement does not diminish the obligation to report required information concerning diagnosed and verified cases of AIDS or an other communicable diseases to the appropriate public health authorities and disease control centers.
- C. Beyond mandated reporting requirements to public authorities, results of test for HIV anybody should not be disclosed to any party other than the individual who has been tested.

VI. Student Interaction with Patient with AIDS

- A. A student should not be excluded on his own request from providing care to patients with AIDS. A student, who believes to be at increased risk because he/she is immunosuppressed or has other clinical conditions that may increase the risk of acquiring an infection, should discuss his/her condition with the Associate Dean for Student Affairs in order to adequately evaluate the situation.

VII. Precautions to Prevent Transmission of HIV Infection or other Communicable Diseases

- A. These precautions apply to all students, regardless of whether or not they perform invasive procedures:
1. All students should wear gloves for direct contact with mucous membranes or nonintact skin of all patients.
 2. Students who have oxidative lesions or dermatitis should refrain from all direct patient care and from handling patient care equipment until the condition resolves.
 3. Blood precautions should be observed. Gloves should be worn during any procedures involving handling of blood or any other fluids. Gowns, masks and eye coverings are not needed for routine purposes but may be desired during procedures involving more extensive contact with blood or other potentially infective body fluids.
 4. Mouth pieces, resuscitation bags (Amby bags), or other ventilation devices should be readily available for use in the event of the need for cardio-pulmonary resuscitation.
 5. All programs in which students are handling potentially and definitely infected material should be continuously evaluated for the utilization and teaching of appropriate techniques. Assistance should be provided for correcting substandard procedures.
 6. If a student's accidental exposure to a possible HIV infection in a patient, medical evaluation should determine whether an HIV serology test should be obtained.
 7. To prevent needlestick injuries, needles should not be recapped, bent, broken, removed from disposable syringes,

or otherwise manipulated by hand. In case of an accidental needle stick injury by student, his/her immediate supervisor must complete an Accident Report and refer him/her to the Emergency Room for immediate evaluation and follow-up. The student is responsible for any treatment, either through the health insurance offered by the Institution or through his/her own health insurance.

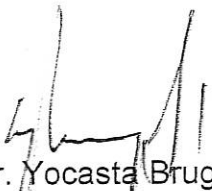
8. If a patient has a parental or mucous membrane exposure to blood or other body fluids of a student, the patient should be informed of the incident by a representative of the hospital's infection control committee. For exposure of a student to patient, both the student and the patient should be followed up.

VIII. Provision of Care to Students with AIDS, ARC or other Communicable Diseases

- A. Students with AIDs, AIDS related Syndromes or other communicable diseases will be instructed as to:
 1. The significance of HIV infection
 2. The potential for transmission of HIV to patient and the means to minimize or prevent such transmission.
 3. Their risk of contracting infections from patients and the means to reduce the risk.
 4. The availability of psychosocial support

IX. Amendments

This document may be amended upon recommendations of the Associate Dean for Student Affairs, the Dean for Academic Affairs to the President of SJBSM. The President will make the final recommendation to the Board of Trustees for their consideration and final decision.



Dr. Yocasta Brugal
President/Dean

Approved: February 21, 2012