

**GME POLICY #748 ..... EXPOSURE TO BLOOD OR BODY FLUIDS INCLUDING  
NEEDLE STICKS – CHATTANOOGA PROTOCOL FOR UT REISDENTS**

**Exposure to Blood or Body Fluids Including Needle Sticks --  
Chattanooga Protocol for UT Residents**

1. Notify your Supervising Resident and/or Faculty Member
2. Ask the Head Nurse or Erlanger House Supervisor in the area where the exposure occurred to assist in completing an Erlanger Exposure Form for Non-Employees so it can be reported to Erlanger Infection Prevention and Erlanger ExpressCare (which now serves as the Employee Health arm for Erlanger).
  - To reach the Erlanger Administrator/House Supervisor On-Call or the Nursing Supervisor, call 423.778.6168. If there is no answer, please call the Erlanger Operator at 423.778.7000 so the Operator can page the House Supervisor.
  - You (the Resident or Fellow) should also notify the UT College of Medicine Chattanooga Office of Graduate Medical Education as soon as you report the exposure by emailing [GME@erlanger.org](mailto:GME@erlanger.org) and [pam.scott@erlanger.org](mailto:pam.scott@erlanger.org).
3. The Administrator On-Call, Nursing Supervisor, or Erlanger Employee Health is authorized to order baseline tests (*e.g.*, HIV and HBSAB) on the Resident/Fellow as well as the source patient at no charge to either the patient or the Resident/Fellow.
  - The Resident/Fellow may be directed to report to the Emergency Department for screening or treatment. If the patient is positive, immediate treatment may be authorized.
  - Lab reports will be sent to the Erlanger Employee Health Office (part of Erlanger Express Care) when completed.
  - Residents/Fellow do not have to report to Erlanger Employee Health until the source labs are back unless the source is a known HIV or HepC+ patient.
  - If the Resident/Fellow is directed to report to Erlanger Employee Health at Erlanger Express Care, the Resident/Fellow should bring a copy of the Erlanger Exposure form for a Non-Employee to that Express Care.
4. Recommendations for any additional follow-up will be given to the Resident/Fellow Erlanger Express Care once all lab reports are reviewed.
  - The Resident/Fellow will be responsible for following any necessary follow-up plans, testing, or treatment which will be coordinated between Erlanger Express Care, the UT College of Medicine Chattanooga GME Office, Erlanger Infection Prevention, and the State of Tennessee Workers Compensation Claims system (managed by CORVEL).
  - If a Workers Compensation Claim needs to be filed, the GME Office (usually Jacqueline Hogan, GME Financial Specialist) will work with the Resident/Fellow to make sure everything is reported with 3 days of the Resident/Fellow receiving medical treatment. If a Supervisor fails to complete a claim report, the Resident's/Fellow's Department will be fined \$1,000 for each incident.
  - The Workers Compensation Claims Process and information is found at the bottom left of the UT College of Medicine Chattanooga GME Institutional Policy page:  
<https://www.uthsc.edu/comc/gme/institutional-policies.php>

5. If the exposure happens after regular Mon – Fri hours, 8 AM – 4 PM, or on weekends or holidays, the Resident/Fellow should notify the Office of Graduate Medical Education via email ([gme@erlangers.org](mailto:gme@erlangers.org) or [pam.scott@erlangers.org](mailto:pam.scott@erlangers.org)) and phone the office the next business day (423.778.7442 or 423.778.3899). If the patient is known to be positive, immediate treatment may be authorized. This decision would be made by the Nursing Supervisor or Erlanger Administrator On-Call.
  
6. Erlanger ExpressCare - Downtown and its Employee Health Office is located at:  
325 Market Street, Suite 102  
Chattanooga, TN 37402  
Phone: 423.778.4800 or the main ExpressCare number 423.541.5122.