Blood exposure, sharps injuries
Policy of UTHSC Pathology Residency Program
Effective: 7/1/21
Minor revision: 7/5/22

Needlestick, Sharps-related, and other On the Job Injuries

In the event of a blood/body fluid exposure or sharps injury, there is often confusion about the next steps to take. *The process for residents is not identical to hospital employees.* The injury form (found here: https://www.uthsc.edu/hr/employee-relations/documents/work-comp-reporting-procedures-revised-2019.pdf) serves as an excellent resource for the steps of this process.

Steps to take in the event of an exposure:

1. Clean the wound well, control bleeding.

2. Get the name, medical record number and location of exposure source.

3. **Do not seek any type of treatment from a physician prior to reporting the injury to Corvel, unless the injury is life-threatening or results in serious bodily injury.**

4. Contact Program Coordinator (phone is best - cell or 901.448.6344) to begin the occupational health paperwork before being seen for treatment (unless there is an immediately life-threatening injury).

A. Occupational health coverage is managed by CorVel. **CorVel paperwork MUST be initiated as soon as possible following the injury to receive a Corvel Claim Number.**

- https://www.uthsc.edu/hr/employee-relations/documents/work-comp-reporting-procedures-revised-2019.pdf

C. If the program coordinator is not immediately available, then CorVel can be contacted at 1-866-245-8588 (option #1 – nurse triage). This is a 24/7 nurse line.

D. Three forms must be completed and returned to the coordinator ASAP.

1. Worker's Compensation Procedures
2. Worker's Compensation Injury Report
3. Lost Time/Return to Work Calendar
4. Transitional Duty Plan*

*Complete this form ONLY when the injured worker is given light duty restrictions

5. The NURSE will discuss the appropriate level of treatment needed and direct the injured worker to the nearest STATE-APPROVED treatment facility.

6. Please contact program director within 24 hours to make aware of the injury; the Program director may need to make further safety evaluations to protect other residents. Additional paperwork may be required by a specific rotation site in some situations.

A summary of this policy is also included in the Pathology Program Manual.