

## **Immunizations**

Rehabilitation Medicine students are health care professionals who will be exposed to patients during the course of studies at the University.

The University of Alberta recognizes its duty to minimize the risk of transmission of bloodborne pathogens to/by individuals studying or working at this University. The Bloodborne Pathogens Policy limits the possibility of bloodborne pathogens within the educational setting. The University recognizes, however, that it is not possible to completely eliminate the risk of infection. Refer to the General Faculties Council Policy Manual, [108.12](#), for additional information.

To ensure, insofar as possible, both student and patient safety, the Faculty requires immunizations or proof of immunity, to poliomyelitis, diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella and hepatitis B. As well, confirmation of varicella (chicken pox) antibody status, history of disease or vaccination is required. TB testing (typically one-step) is required. Please note there will be a charge for this.

**Hepatitis B:** Hepatitis B surface antigen testing will be performed by University Health Services. For those students who test negative for hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAG), hepatitis B vaccination will be required. An exception will be made for those individuals who have proof of prior vaccination and test positive for antibody to hepatitis B surface antigen (antiHBs). After vaccination, students will receive a second test to determine if they have converted to produce the appropriate antibody titre. If they have not converted they will receive a second vaccination and again be tested. Those students who then fail to convert will be counseled as to their potential risk status during training and future practice. For those students who test positive for HbsAG, their "e" antigen (HBeAG) status and the presence of hepatitis B viral DNA will be determined. If they are found to be positive for the "e" antigen or the viral DNA they will be counseled as to their risk of infecting patients.

The Hepatitis B inoculation is a series of three injections. The second injection is given one month after the first injection and the third injection is given six months after the first injection. The inoculation is effective for five years. The Hepatitis B inoculations are available at University Health Services or at any Edmonton Board of Health Clinic for a required fee.

**Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV):** The data relating to transmission of HIV from a health care worker to a patient in a health care setting are limited. Transmission from patients to a health care worker is more common. All students accepted into the Faculty are encouraged to undergo HIV testing at any time during their program when concerns about infection have arisen. Testing for HIV is not mandatory.

### **Requirements**

Immunization/bloodborne pathogen requirements must be fulfilled by the date set by the ACCE. Students must sign a waiver if they are unable to meet these requirements due to medical contraindication.

Should a facility require further examinations in order that a student may begin his/her placement, it will be the responsibility of the **facility** to see that they are done.

It is each student's responsibility to ensure their ongoing health is such that they will not pose a risk to themselves or their clients. Students are required to complete Form D, Fitness to Practice—Student Agreement and return this to the CEA with their immunization proof. The ACCE / Department Chair has the right to request a re-examination for students who have had a known illness or injury, which could provide hazardous to the student or his/her clients.

If the ACCE or Chair request that a re-examination is required for continuation of the clinical program, the student will be sent written confirmation of this requirement.

In addition, it is the student's responsibility to:

- ensure that his/her immunizations are kept up-to-date
- carry a current immunization record to each placement.

Failure to comply with the above may result in cancellation of a placement.

Refer to the procedures for Pre-Requisites. Refer to the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine Regulations S143.6 for further details.

The recommendations for TB testing of Health Sciences Students were revised by Dr. Richard Long, Director, Alberta TB Services, on April 30, 2003. The revisions are as follows:

“Students in all health science faculties are recommended to be tuberculin tested upon matriculation, unless they can provide documentation of a prior positive tuberculin test, a recent negative test (within the past year), had TB in the past, or had a severe reaction to tuberculin in the past. If the initial tuberculin test, performed upon matriculation, is negative, a second (booster test) should be performed within 1-3 weeks.

Subsequent targeted tuberculin testing of students within health sciences faculties is recommended if:

- they are in contact with a known case of infectious tuberculosis, or
- they undertake a practicum in an area highly endemic for tuberculosis.

After completion of their training, students from health sciences faculties may be required to have tuberculin testing as part of their employment in a healthcare institution.”

[MEDICAL FORM \(click here\)](#)