

Exhibit 5-1.1 Bloodborne Pathogen Policy

**Allegany College of Maryland**

**Dental Hygiene Department**

**Bloodborne Pathogen/ Hazard Communication Policy**

The Department of Dental Hygiene at Allegany College of Maryland is committed to addressing issues related to bloodborne pathogens, such as Human Immunodeficiency (HIV), Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), and Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) in order to protect patients, students, faculty and staff, as well as protect the rights of individuals who may have a bloodborne infectious disease. Students are required to treat all patients assigned and as a result, the potential exists for transmission of bloodborne and other infectious diseases during patient care services.

The Allegany College of Maryland Dental Hygiene Clinic is considered a safe place to provide and receive dental hygiene care. Current and generally accepted epidemiological evidence supports the conclusion that there is no significant risk of contracting bloodborne diseases through the provision of dental treatment when appropriate infection control procedures are routinely followed.

In general, a key element of infection control is the concept of *standard precautions*, introduced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a means to reduce the risk of bloodborne pathogen transmission in healthcare settings. The primary principle behind standard precautions centers on the premise that medical history and examination cannot reliably identify all patients infected with bloodborne pathogens. All patients, therefore, must be regarded as potentially infectious. As such, applying standard precautions requires that infection control procedures (eg. HBV vaccination, routine handwashing, use of protective barriers and care in the use and disposal of needles and other sharp instruments) are used for every patient. Practicing standard precautions is an effective means of reducing blood contacts that can result in bloodborne pathogen transmission, minimizing even further the already low risk of disease transmission in the dental office.

The program adheres to CDC Guidelines and complies with all tenets of the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard in each patient care encounter. In addition to implementation of these guidelines and standards, it is necessary to specifically outline certain procedures and policies related to applicants, patients and practitioners. In addition to this policy more detailed information regarding clinical procedures for prevention of disease transmission in the clinical and laboratory setting is provided in the Dental Hygiene Department Policies Handbook and Exposure Control Manual.

The purpose of the department's Bloodborne Pathogen Policy (BPP) and Exposure Control Manual (ECM) is to minimize the risk to other environmental hazards. Policies will be reviewed annually and changes recommended as appropriate.

The Bloodborne Pathogens Policy is made available to all prospective students, patients and employees through the college website as well as posting in the reception area, and reviewed during clinical orientations.

**Admission/Employment**

Allegany College of Maryland Dental Hygiene Department will not discriminate against employees, students, applicants for admission or patients based solely on health status. Applicants and potential employees who test positive for an infectious disease or who are carriers of an infectious disease should seek counsel from their personal physician and the program director regarding future career planning or job placement.

### **Immunizations**

The risk for exposure to Hepatitis B is higher for Dental Health Care Providers (DHCP) than the general population, therefore, it is recommended that students start the vaccination process for Hepatitis B as soon as they receive acceptance into the program. All students must complete a comprehensive health evaluation upon entry to the program including a medical history, physical examination, negative Tuberculin (Mantoux) skin test (negative chest x-ray if positive or contraindicated), blood work and immunizations are additional requirements outlined in the ECM and Dental Hygiene Policies Handbook.

### **HIV Testing**

Testing of DHCP and students for HIV is not required by the Department of Dental Hygiene. However, health care workers and students who perform exposure-prone procedures on patients are encouraged to be tested voluntarily in order to know their HIV status.

### **Obligation to report**

The Dental Hygiene Program affirms that dentists and dental hygienists infected with bloodborne pathogens can safely provide dental care, and that bloodborne pathogen infection alone does not justify the limiting of professional duties or automatically mandate disclosure provided proper infection control procedures are implemented.

A student will be allowed to continue his/her education as long as their medical condition permits patient care and other individual's health are not jeopardized or at risk.

In the event that an individual poses a risk to others, the Dental Hygiene Program Director will assist the individual in obtaining counseling and advisement regarding their health and education.

### **Confidentiality**

All information regarding the health status of an individual is confidential and protected by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1994 and the 1996 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. Faculty, staff, and students are required to maintain strict confidentiality of a patient's bloodborne pathogen status and all medical conditions.

### **Bloodborne Pathogen & Infection Control Training**

The Dental Hygiene Program complies with all local, state, and federal infection control policies including the application of Standard Precautions as stipulated by current CDC Guidelines. Written policies and instruction on infection control protocol to minimize the risk of disease transmission is provided in courses throughout the curriculum, at yearly required bloodborne pathogen training sessions and through documents such as the Dental Hygiene Policies Handbook and the Exposure Control Manual. Compliance of safety practices is evaluated throughout the students' clinical experience to ensure a safe educational and work environment. The Dental Hygiene Department

Exposure Control Manual outlines infection control protocol and is available to all applicants upon request.

### **Limitation of Activity**

The Dental Hygiene Department will follow CDC suggested work restrictions for health-care personnel infected with or exposed to major infectious diseases in the dental hygiene clinic. A copy of work restriction recommendations is found within the ECM.

### **Enforcement of Practice Limitations or Modifications**

Any student or DHCP who engages in unsafe and/or careless clinical practices, which create risks to the health of patients, employees, or students shall be subject to disciplinary action. When such actions are brought to the attention of the Program Director, the students or DHCP may be suspended immediately from all patient care activities pending a full investigation of the matter.

### **Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens**

DHCP or students who are exposed to a bloodborne pathogen in the course of their clinical care are expected to follow the procedures set forth in the ECM. If a student should be exposed to a patient's body fluids in a manner that may transmit a bloodborne or infectious disease, the patient will be asked to be tested for disease.

### **Environmental Hazards**

Environmental hazards of dental hygiene practice include: disorders associated with repetitive activities, exposure to high decibel sounds, exposure to hazardous chemicals or substances, accidental injury, exposure to radiation and allergic reactions to latex or other chemical agents.

### **Communication of Bloodborne Pathogen Policy to Dental Hygiene Clinic Patients**

The Allegany College of Maryland Bloodborne Pathogens Policy and Exposure Control Manual are available upon request in the Dental Hygiene Clinic.

### **Professional Judgment**

The program relies on the expertise of faculty members to exercise his or her best professional judgment, based on current and generally accepted scientific knowledge and the ethics of the profession, in all situations regarding when and how to treat and whether to refer each patient.

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