

## ***UCLA School of Nursing Policy on HIV/AIDS and other Blood Borne Diseases***

### *Disease Definitions*

- **HIV/AIDS:** Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) is a condition in which the body's ability to defend itself against a variety of diseases is seriously reduced. This condition apparently is caused by a virus known most commonly as the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). As yet, there is no known cure for AIDS.
- **HIV Positive:** When a person is infected with the HIV virus, his or her immune system responds by producing antibodies against the virus. Antibodies can be detected by a laboratory test, though symptoms of illness may not be present. Antibodies generally develop within three (3) to twelve (12) weeks after exposure but may take as long as fourteen (14) months. Such an infection apparently cannot be reversed, and may develop into AIDS.

### *Principles Underlying the UCLA School of Nursing Policy*

1. A primary objective of the UCLA School of Nursing HIV/AIDS policy is education for the prevention of any acquisition or transmission of HIV/AIDS.
2. UCLA School of Nursing shall respond to any known case of HIV/AIDS as it would to any other life-threatening, contagious disease. At no time will the University discriminate against any persons simply because they are infected by the HIV virus.
3. UCLA School of Nursing personnel will act to combat fear, prejudice, discrimination, irrationality, paranoia, and/or hysteria commonly associated with HIV/AIDS.

### *Policy*

1. Responsibility for ongoing, educational programming on HIV/AIDS shall be assigned to the faculty and the office of the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. Such educational programming shall be directed to all members of the UCLA School of Nursing community, including administrators, faculty, staff, and students.
2. UCLA School of Nursing shall attempt to conform to all local, state, and federal laws and the Center for Disease Control guidelines.
3. UCLA School of Nursing allows persons who are HIV-positive to remain on campus, but they must not engage in or endorse life-style practices which might pose direct threat of transmitting the virus to others.
4. UCLA School of Nursing will not undertake program screening to identify persons infected with the HIV virus unless required to do so by law. Students and University employees desiring HIV testing are directed to seek assistance from their personal physicians or the public health departments.
5. It is expected that all health care professionals adhere to medically determined policies regarding the safe disposal of hypodermic needles, blood, and other bodily fluids. Adherence to these same precautions will be practiced in laboratory courses and wherever members of the UCLA School of Nursing community, including administrators, faculty, staff and students encounter bodily fluids.
6. UCLA School of Nursing employees will protect the confidentiality of any person who tests HIV positive, as mandated by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

7. Students and University employees involved in extra-curricular activities, which place them at risk, shall take appropriate, precautionary measures to reduce risk to themselves or others.
8. Due to the inherent risks of laboratory and nursing-clinical facilities, students are required to take appropriate precautionary measures in dealing with the blood and body fluids, handling of needles, and any laboratory or hospital equipment that may pose a threat to themselves or to other persons. In the event of an incident involving risk of HIV or Hepatitis transmission, the student or University employee has an ethical duty to immediately report the incident to a designated University official.
9. Additional information on AIDS/HIV can be obtained from the Center for Disease Control (<http://www.cdc.gov>) (<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/basic.htm>)

*Procedural Addendum to UCLA School of Nursing's AIDS Policy and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Instructions*

In addition to the University AIDS Policy, the following statements apply to nursing students and faculty in the School of Nursing in relation to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), Hepatitis C Virus (HCV), Hepatitis D Virus (HDV), and Hepatitis G Virus (HGV) since health care activities may put an individual at higher risk for these diseases.

1. No individual shall be denied an opportunity for admission into the nursing program or employment in connection with the nursing program because that individual is infected with a dangerous communicable disease such as HIV, AIDS, HBV, HCV, HCV, or HGV, so long as (a) UCLA School of Nursing is able to make reasonable accommodations for the individual and (b) the disease does not create a direct threat, as both of the underlined terms are defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act.
2. Students and faculty should be aware that as novice practitioners with limited skills in clinical settings, students may have a greater risk of unintended puncture with sharp medical instruments and are at a greater risk of exposure to HIV, AIDS, or Hepatitis.
3. No nursing student or faculty may ethically refuse to treat a patient solely because the patient is at risk of contracting, or has contracted, an infectious disease such as HIV, AIDS, or Hepatitis.
4. Nursing students and faculty must follow professional guidelines as well as guidelines of the health care agency relative to confidentiality concerning the patient with HIV, AIDS, or Hepatitis
5. In order to reduce the possibility of exposure to Hepatitis B Virus, nursing students and faculty will follow the policies in effect for the School of Nursing at UCLA School of Nursing:
6. Students and faculty who are exposed to HIV, AIDS, or Hepatitis as a result of exposure to blood and body fluids such as a needle stick or other injury have the responsibility to notify their faculty or supervisor in the School of Nursing immediately after the occurrence and to follow post-exposure instructions under the guidance of their health care provider. Students will sign a UCLA School of Nursing post-exposure "read and sign" form. Information on post-exposure prophylaxis may also be obtained from the Centers for Disease Control ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)) and The National Clinicians Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Hotline (PEpline) (888) 448-491. Exposure should be considered an urgent

medical concern in order to ensure timely post-exposure management. The student will be excused from clinical for the day in order to seek treatment as indicated.

- a. Before starting the clinical sequence, nursing students are required to present verification that immunization for the Hepatitis B series has been started. Documentation that the series has been completed needs to be provided according to the appropriate time frame in order to continue in the clinical courses.
  - b. Nursing faculty, who provide clinical supervision to students, will supply the Office of Student Affairs with documentation of vaccination, immunity, or a waiver of personal liability. The University will provide the cost of this vaccination when necessary.
7. Students are required to be tested for HIV when patients are exposed to the student's blood. Positive test results should be communicated to the health care agency and the agency procedure followed.
  8. If a student has been exposed to any of the above named illnesses, he/she should temporarily remove themselves from being an organ donor, as indicated on the of his/her driver's license and refrain from donating blood until there is no longer any suspicion of infection.
  9. If a student is exposed to the HIV virus, he/she should notify his/her health care provider and dentist that he/she is under HIV surveillance program.
  10. Each student should be constantly diligent about practicing Universal Precautions as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control.
  11. A student entering any surveillance program for any of the above mentioned illnesses should discuss such the matter with his/her spouse or significant other.
  12. Students looking for additional counseling should visit the Arthur Ashe Student Health Center on the UCLA campus.