

Policy Title: Needlestick Policy and Procedure

UT Student Health Services operates a Needlestick Hotline 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to expedite a student's treatment in case of needlestick or body fluid exposure. Regardless of the hospital or clinic to which a student is assigned, the procedure is the same. Each student should have a "Needlestick" sticker on the back of the student's identification badge.

If a student sustains a needlestick or has an accidental exposure to bloodborne pathogens,

Page (713) 500-OUCH (6824)
24 hours a day

Students should NOT go to the nearest emergency room. The page will be answered promptly, and the student will receive specific instructions and information. After paging the hotline, the student should remain by the phone but not use it or the call cannot be returned.

Most calls will be answered within 5-10 minutes. The student will be asked to give a detailed description of the incident. Base-line labs will be checked, as well as the labs on the source patient. The student will be counseled on overall risk, and informed if treatment is recommended or necessary. Students will be given follow-up labs at defined intervals over the next six months to a year.

Students are not responsible for the costs associated with the Needlestick Hotline (laboratory work and medications from UT Student Health Services). However, if a student chooses not to follow the Needlestick Hotline procedure and independently consults a physician (private or through an emergency department, for example), the student will be personally responsible for all costs, and those costs will not be reimbursed by UT Student Health Services, the School, or the University.

Students with questions should call the clinic at (713) 500-5171, or stop by UT Student Health Services.