

**GME POLICY #748 EXPOSURE TO BLOOD OR BODY FLUIDS INCLUDING
NEEDLE STICKS – CHATTANOOGA PROTOCOL FOR UT RESIDENTS**

**Exposure to Blood or Body Fluids Including Needle Sticks --
Chattanooga Protocol for UT Residents**

1. Notify your Supervising Resident and/or Faculty Member
2. Ask the Head Nurse or Erlanger House Supervisor in the area where the exposure occurred to assist in completing an Erlanger Exposure Form for Non-Employees so it can be reported to Erlanger Infection Prevention and Erlanger ExpressCare (which now serves as the Employee Health arm for Erlanger).
 - To reach the Erlanger Administrator/House Supervisor On-Call or the Nursing Supervisor, call 423.778.6168. If there is no answer, please call the Erlanger Operator at 423.778.7000 so the Operator can page the House Supervisor.
 - You (the Resident or Fellow) should also notify the UT College of Medicine Chattanooga Office of Graduate Medical Education as soon as you report the exposure by emailing GME@erlangers.org and pam.scott@erlangers.org.
3. The Administrator On-Call, Nursing Supervisor, or Erlanger Employee Health is authorized to order baseline tests (*e.g.*, HIV and HBSAB) on the Resident/Fellow as well as the source patient at no charge to either the patient or the Resident/Fellow.
 - The Resident/Fellow may be directed to report to the Emergency Department for screening or treatment. If the patient is positive, immediate treatment may be authorized.
 - Lab reports will be sent to the Erlanger Employee Health Office (part of Erlanger Express Care) when completed.
 - Residents/Fellow do not have to report to Erlanger Employee Health until the source labs are back unless the source is a known HIV or HepC+ patient.
 - If the Resident/Fellow is directed to report to Erlanger Employee Health at Erlanger Express Care, the Resident/Fellow should bring a copy of the Erlanger Exposure form for a Non-Employee to that Express Care.
4. Recommendations for any additional follow-up will be given to the Resident/Fellow Erlanger Express Care once all lab reports are reviewed.
 - The Resident/Fellow will be responsible for following any necessary follow-up plans, testing, or treatment which will be coordinated between Erlanger Express Care, the UT College of Medicine Chattanooga GME Office, Erlanger Infection Prevention, and the State of Tennessee Workers Compensation Claims system (managed by CORVEL).
 - If a Workers Compensation Claim needs to be filed, the GME Office (usually Jacqueline Hogan, GME Financial Specialist) will work with the Resident/Fellow to make sure everything is reported with 3 days of the Resident/Fellow receiving medical treatment. If a Supervisor fails to complete a claim report, the Resident's/Fellow's Department will be fined \$1,000 for each incident.
 - The Workers Compensation Claims Process and information is found at the bottom left of the UT College of Medicine Chattanooga GME Institutional Policy page:
<https://www.uthsc.edu/comc/gme/institutional-policies.php>

5. If the exposure happens after regular Mon – Fri hours, 8 AM – 4 PM, or on weekends or holidays, the Resident/Fellow should notify the Office of Graduate Medical Education via email (gme@erlangers.org or pam.scott@erlangers.org) and phone the office the next business day (423.778.7442 or 423.778.3899). If the patient is known to be positive, immediate treatment may be authorized. This decision would be made by the Nursing Supervisor or Erlanger Administrator On-Call.
6. Erlanger ExpressCare - Downtown and its Employee Health Office is located at:
325 Market Street, Suite 102
Chattanooga, TN 37402
Phone: 423.778.4800 or the main ExpressCare number 423.541.5122.

UT Residents are not employee of Erlanger, so they are not covered by the Erlanger Workers Compensation plan. Instead they are UT employees so any “on-the-job injury or exposure” must be reported within three days of the event to the State of Tennessee’s Workers Compensation Claims processors (CorVel). Please follow the procedure below and work with Jacqueline Hogan in the GME Office to initiate a Workers Compensation Claim and file appropriate documentation:

Workers Compensation Claims Process Supervisor--

- Supervisor may call in First Notice of Loss (FNOL) within three days when resident is receiving medical treatment.
- Contact the CorVel nurse triage line: 1-866-245-8588 option #2
- A departmental fine of \$1,000 will be charged each time a claim report is not completed by a supervisor.

Workers Compensation Claims Process for Residents:

Step 1: Injured Worker Reports Injury

- BEFORE SEEKING MEDICAL TREATMENT, report the injury to CorVel: 1-866-245-8588, Option 1
- This is a 24/7 Nurse Line
- The NURSE determines the appropriate level of treatment needed and will direct you to the nearest STATE APPROVED treatment facility
- DO NOT go to the doctor before you call CorVel

Step 2: Inform your Supervisor RIGHT AWAY

- Exactly what happened, how it happened, and if CorVel advises you to get medical treatment.

Step 3: Inform the GME Office WITHIN 24 hours of Injury

- GME@erlangers.org, 423.778.3899

Complete the [Incident Report form](#) and return to the GME Office in Suite 104 of the Whitehall Building (fax to 423.778.3673 or scan and email to GME@erlangers.org).

Approved by the GMEC 4/20/2021.