

Exhibit 17

LUZERNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dental Health Department Bloodborne Pathogens Policy

The Dental Health Department at Luzerne County Community College 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 right 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 purpose of the program's Bloodborne Pathogen Policy (BPP) is to minimize the risk of transmission of bloodborne pathogens, as well as, minimize the risk to other environmental hazards. Policies are reviewed annually and changes and/or updates made as appropriate.

The LCCC Dental Hygiene Clinic is a safe place to provide and receive dental hygiene care. Current and generally accepted epidemiological information 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 followed.

A key element of infection control is that of standard precautions, introduced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a means to reduce the risk of bloodborne pathogen transmission (e.g., HIV, HBV and others) 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 (e.g., HBV vaccine, routine handwashing, use of protective barriers and care in the use and disposal of needles and other sharp instruments) are used on every patient.

Admission/Employment

The LCCC Dental Health Department does not discriminate against employees, students, applicants for admission of patients based solely on health status. Applicants who test positive for infectious disease or who are carriers of an infectious disease should seek counsel from their physician and the Dental Health Director prior to application.

Immunizations

The risk of 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 dental

hygiene or the dental assisting program. A comprehensive medical history, physical exam, dental exam, negative Tuberculin (Mantoux) skin test and additional immunizations as stated on the student Medical History Form.

HIV Testing

Testing of DHCP and students for HIV is not required by the Dental Health Department. However, healthcare 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

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 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.

Standard Precautions

Standard precautions involve the use of protective barriers such as gloves, gowns, masks, and protective eyewear, which can reduce the risk of exposure of the DHCP's skin or mucous membranes to potentially infectious materials. Personal protective equipment for faculty and students is removed before leaving clinic and disposed of by the institution. In addition, it is recommended that all faculty and students take precautions to prevent injuries caused by needles, scalpels, and other sharp instruments or devices.

Bloodborne Pathogen and Infection Control Training

The dental health department 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 curriculums in both the dental hygiene program and the dental assisting program. Compliance of safety practices is evaluated throughout each student's clinical experience to ensure safe educational and work environment. Infection control procedures are outlined in the Infection Control Manual and are reviewed and updated annually.

Enforcement of Practice Limitations or Modifications

Any student or DHCP who engages in unsafe and/or careless clinical practice, 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

Students or DHCP who are exposed to a bloodborne pathogen in the course of their clinical care are expected to follow the procedures established in the Infection Control Manual. If a student should be exposed to a patient's body fluids in a manner that may transmit a bloodborne or infectious disease, the student should consult their primary health care provider if testing and treatment become necessary.

Environment Hazards

Environmental hazards of the dental 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.

Dental Hygiene Services

Current epidemiological evidence indicates that there is no significant risk of contracting bloodborne diseases through the provision of dental treatment when standard precautions are routinely followed. Therefore, all patients, regardless of health status will be provided dental hygiene services in the LCCC Dental Hygiene Clinic. Standard precautions for all patients will be followed.

Communicating the Bloodborne Pathogen Policy

The Dental Health Department's Bloodborne Pathogen Policy is available upon request during the patient's initial appointment.

Confidentiality

All information regarding the health status of an individual is confidential and is considered protected health information used only for treatment. A privacy notice explaining the use of health information is provided to patients at their initial appointment. The LCCC Dental Hygiene Clinic is HIPAA compliant.