



Section 4: Health Policy, Disease Surveillance, and Clearances for Students

All Drexel University College of Medicine students who are enrolled full-time must carry comprehensive health protection meeting minimum specific benefit standards.

Documentation of immunizations and infection surveillance are required for all students enrolled in the College of Medicine.

Students who are non-compliant with maintaining adequate health insurance or appropriate immunization and disease surveillance requirements may be barred from classes and/or clinical activities by being placed on an Administrative Leave of Absence until the deficiency is resolved. Non-compliance with College of Medicine Health Policy may also warrant a Letter of Concern for Unprofessional Behavior.

The Office of Student Immunization and Surveillance is responsible for maintaining the health, immunization and surveillance records for students in the College of Medicine. The Office is located on the Queen Lane Campus, Room 221 (phone 215-991-8560, fax 215-843-5495). E-mail contact: imm_surv@drexel.edu. If you need assistance with finding a Primary Care Physician in the Philadelphia area, you may opt to find a physician in the Department of Family, Community and Preventive Medicine or the Department of Medicine by utilizing the Drexel University College of Medicine website <http://drexel.edu/medicine/Community-Engagement/Patient-Care/>

Students cannot receive healthcare from anyone who will evaluate them during medical school.

Health Insurance

[\[Table of Contents\]](#)

All Drexel University College of Medicine students who are enrolled full-time must carry comprehensive health protection meeting minimum specific benefit standards.

To satisfy the health insurance requirement, students may obtain coverage through the University-sponsored group plans or maintain equivalent health insurance through a plan administered elsewhere. For information, contact the Office of Student Financial Services at (215) 991-8268.

Students are responsible for any co-payments or the cost of uninsured services.

Monitoring and Documentation of Health Policy Requirements [\[Table of Contents\]](#)

The university follows the recommendations of the CDC and the American College Health Association concerning required immunizations. Students are required to document immune status with appropriate titers which are obtained through the students' health care provider. Students with deficits in either immunizations or immune status, may receive appropriate immunizations and boosters through the Drexel University Student Health Center (3401 Market Street) or through their primary care provider. Students may also receive immunization services at the Occupational Health Services located at Hahnemann University Hospital, Bobst Bldg., Rm. 131.

Documentation and Monitoring of compliance with health policy requirements is conducted by the Office of Immunization and Surveillance. All student health and immunization records are maintained by the Coordinator of Student Immunization Records, who communicates directly with students.

Students requesting a copy of their transcript of immunization/titer documentation should submit a written request to the Office of Immunization and Surveillance. With the exception of affiliated academic campuses, immunization transcripts are mailed directly to the student and not to programs or institutions.

Health and immunization documentation is maintained for current medical students. Health and immunization documentation is destroyed following graduation. Students are advised to maintain a copy of their own health/immunization documentation.

Disease Surveillance and Immunization Requirements [\[Table of Contents\]](#)

Tuberculosis Surveillance Testing

Prior to matriculation (entering first year of medical school), all Students must complete Tuberculosis surveillance testing. For most students, this will consist of **Two-Step Tuberculin Skin Test (TST)** testing (PPD). The first step must be completed within 12 months of the second step. The second step must be completed within two months of matriculation to medical school. If you have received BCG Vaccine, you are still required to have tuberculosis surveillance testing. You may have a Two-Step Tuberculin Skin Test, or alternatively, you may provide documentation (copy of test result/titer) of negative Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) blood test completed within two months of matriculation (The BCG vaccine *may* result in a false positive tuberculin skin test while the IGRA does not. Thus, in the setting of BCG vaccination, the IGRA blood test has a higher specificity for exposure to or latent tuberculosis.)

If you have documentation of a **positive** PPD or a **positive** IGRA blood test, you must provide documentation of 9 months INH treatment and negative Chest X-ray (taken within one year of matriculation to Drexel University College of Medicine). Thereafter, while at DUCOM you will be required to have annual chest x-rays.

In addition to the matriculation requirements, the College of Medicine also requires annual tuberculosis surveillance testing for actively enrolled students. This is usually accomplished by annual tuberculin skin testing. However, if you have had a prior positive TST but negative IGRA, you would be required to submit documentation of annual IGRA testing.

If a student converts from a Negative TST or IGRA to a Positive TST or IGRA they will require evaluation by their healthcare provider. The healthcare provider will need to submit documentation with an assessment of whether or not the student has active tuberculosis disease. If no active disease, documentation of the commencement of and completion of appropriate Tuberculin Preventative Treatment as well as a negative chest x-ray is required. Thereafter, while at DUCOM you will be required to have annual chest x-rays. Failure to complete these requirements within 30 days of the TST or IGRA conversion will result in the suspension of any clinical activities (i.e. rotations) and may result in a Letter of Concern for Unprofessional Behavior.

If you develop active disease, proof of appropriate Tuberculosis treatment is required. Students will also need documentation by their healthcare provider that disease is no longer active and the student is no longer considered a health risk to others before returning to any classes or clinical rotations. Thereafter, while at DUCOM, you will be required to have annual chest x-rays.

Micro-Particulate Respirators

Because of the increasing prevalence of tuberculosis and the appearance of multiple drug resistant strains, all students will be fitted for a micro particulate respirator prior to the beginning of the third year of medical school.

Required Immunizations

[\[Table of Contents\]](#)

Influenza Vaccination

All medical students are required to be vaccinated **yearly** with the seasonal influenza vaccine. Documentation of vaccination must be submitted to the Office of Immunization and Surveillance by October 15th each year (Some clinical sites may have an earlier deadline). Failure to complete this requirement will result in the suspension of any clinical activities (i.e. Year 1/2 clinical skills hospital sessions or Year 3/4 clinical rotations) and may result in a Letter of Concern for Unprofessional Behavior.

If there is a medical contraindication to influenza vaccination, documentation including the specific contraindication to vaccination is required from the student's health care provider.

Hepatitis B

All medical students are required to be vaccinated with a complete 3-dose Hepatitis B vaccine series. Documentation of receipt of the complete vaccine series must be submitted prior to matriculation. In addition, students must complete and submit **post-vaccination quantitative serologic testing** (Antibody to Hepatitis B Surface Antigen [anti-HBs]), documenting protective quantities of anti-HBs. If a student's post-vaccination quantitative anti-HBs titer is inadequate, the student must receive one additional dose of Hepatitis B vaccine, followed by quantitative anti-HBs serologic testing 1-2 months following receipt of the additional dose. Students whose titer remains inadequate following the single additional vaccine dose must receive two (2) additional vaccine doses (6 doses total) followed by repeat quantitative anti-HBs serologic testing 1-2 months after the last dose. If the anti-HBs titers remain negative after completion of two 3-dose vaccine series, a Hepatitis B Surface Antigen titer is needed.

Measles/Mumps/Rubella

All students are required to provide written documentation of vaccination with two doses of the Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR) vaccine; documentation must include specific dates of vaccine administration. Students without documentation of two MMR vaccine doses, must submit documentation of serologic testing indicating adequate protective antibody titers for Measles, Mumps *and* Rubella. Students without required documentation of vaccination or inadequate or negative antibody titers must receive appropriate vaccinations (and submit documentation) prior to matriculation.

Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis

Students must provide documentation of a single dose of the Tdap vaccination (regardless of timing of last Td booster). Td boosters are required every 10 years thereafter.

Varicella

Students must provide documentation of immunity to varicella by 1) submitting documentation of receipt of two doses of the varicella vaccine (documentation must include dates that each vaccine dose was administered) *or* 2) submitting documentation of quantitative serologic testing indicating adequate antibody titers in blood. If a student has a history of varicella disease but serology demonstrates inadequate or negative antibody titers, the student must receive two doses of vaccine and provide documentation of vaccination prior to matriculation.

Recommended Immunizations

Meningococcal

Meningococcal vaccine is recommended prior to matriculating to medical school.

Hepatitis A

Hepatitis A vaccine is recommended prior to matriculating to medical school.

Follow-up for Student Immunization and Disease Surveillance Compliance

[\[Table of Contents\]](#)

Annually, the Coordinator of Student Immunization Records will notify students who are non-compliant with immunization requirements. The Coordinator of Student Immunization Records will provide the Associate Dean of Clinical Education with a list of students deficient in one or more areas of required infection surveillance or immunization. Students who are non-compliant with maintaining adequate health insurance or appropriate immunization and disease surveillance requirements will be barred from classes and/or clinical activities by being placed on an Administrative Leave of Absence until the deficiency is resolved. Non-compliance with College of Medicine Health Policy may also warrant an Letter of Concern for Unprofessional Behavior.

Student Health Care

[\[Table of Contents\]](#)

If you need assistance finding a Primary Care Physician, you may find a physician in the Department of Family, Community and Preventive Medicine or the Department of Medicine by

utilizing the Drexel University College of Medicine website
<http://www.drexelmed.edu/home/findadoctor.aspx>.

Student Health Services are also provided at the Drexel Student Health Center located at 3201 Arch Street, Philadelphia on main Drexel Campus.

**Students cannot receive healthcare from anyone who will evaluate them during medical school.*

Criminal Background Checks and Fingerprinting Requirements [\[Table of Contents\]](#)

Students are required to complete a criminal background check and child abuse clearance upon matriculation and every two years thereafter while actively enrolled in the College of Medicine. Students are required to complete FBI fingerprinting through the **Pennsylvania Department of Human Services** upon matriculation and every five years thereafter while actively enrolled in the College of Medicine.

If a student's background check reveals new information of concern or convictions not previously reported/reviewed (including judgments, found guilty by a judge or jury, pleaded guilty or no contest, received probation without verdict, disposition in lieu of trial, or Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD)), it will be referred to the Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs or his/her designee. The student will be asked to submit a response to the adverse conviction and/or report. Additional documentation may be requested. If there are concerns related to the conviction, the issue will be referred to the College of Medicine Honor Court and/or Promotions Committee. The Promotions Committee will determine necessary sanctions up to and including dismissal from the College of Medicine.

Student Reporting Requirements [\[Table of Contents\]](#)

All matriculated students must report any newly reported convictions (including judgments, found guilty by a judge or jury, pleaded guilty or no contest, received probation without verdict, disposition in lieu of trial, or Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD)) to the Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs within 24 hours of conviction for review. The student will be asked to submit a response to the adverse conviction and/or report.

Basic Life Support (BLS) Training [\[Table of Contents\]](#)

Students are required to complete BLS training prior to the start of third year clerkships and every two years thereafter while actively enrolled in the College of Medicine.

Drug Testing Protocol [\[Table of Contents\]](#)

Aside from impacting upon the personal and psychological integrity of the abusers, substance abuse may significantly impact the ability of medical students to administer safe, competent patient care. This policy impacts upon and augments the student's ability to maintain personal and professional integrity, and facilitates the student's success both clinically and didactically. It promotes a healthy learning environment for the student and also enhances patient safety in the clinical setting.

Policy

This policy applies to all students and all applicants who have confirmed acceptance in the Undergraduate M.D. Program (the "Program").

Any unlawful possession, use, manufacture or distribution of controlled or illegal substances or alcohol by any student in the Program while on campus or at a clinical site shall be considered substance abuse or chemical dependency and may constitute cause for termination from the program. Reporting to class or clinical assignments under the influence of such substances or alcohol is also prohibited. Students must also comply with all local, state or federal laws and regulations controlling the possession, manufacture, use or distribution of controlled or illegal substances and alcohol. All students must also comply with Drexel University policies on alcohol and illicit drug use.

In addition, there are circumstances in which students may need to take over the counter or prescribed medications that may impair their ability to function safely in the clinical environment and thereby endanger patients and self. As such, all students are responsible for being aware of the effect these medications may have on their ability to function safely in the clinical environment and are required to notify the Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs (or his/her designee) upon entering a clinical educational experience if they have any concerns. Students cannot participate in clinical training if they are taking mood altering medications that impair their ability to function safely in the clinical environment. Failure to adhere to these policies will result in disciplinary action. In such circumstances, the student is encouraged to request medical leave from their studies.

Drug Testing

While enrolled in the Program, a student may be required to undergo drug or alcohol testing when:

1. They are placed in a clinical education training site whose policies requires that rotating students undergo specific drug/alcohol testing prior to placement or during clinical rotations at the site. Students will be notified by the Office of Immunization and Surveillance of the need for drug testing and will provide information on the specifics of scheduling and details of sites where surveillance (drug testing) can be completed. It is the student's responsibility to complete screening in a timely fashion. Students will not be permitted to begin clerkships until screening has been completed. Clinical sites will be notified when screening has been completed. Final results will be submitted to the Office of Immunization and Surveillance. Students with a positive test will be referred to the Director of Student Mental Health. If concerns remain, the student will be referred to Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs.
2. The Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs (or his/her designee) determines, through direct observation or reports from faculty, clinical supervisors, or other reporters, that there is reasonable suspicion that the student is impaired due to illegal drug or alcohol use, the use or misuse of prescribed or over the counter medications based upon, but not limited to:
 - A. Unusual or aberrant behavior
 - B. Physical symptoms
 - C. Patterns of abnormal or erratic behavior
 - D. Conviction for drug-related offenses
 - E. Being identified as the subject of a drug-related criminal investigation
 - F. Reliable information from independent sources
 - G. Evidence of drug tampering or misappropriation

- H. Consistently discrepant daily drug counts
 - I. Accidents or illnesses caused by substance abuse
 - J. Impairment or intoxication in the clinical and/or didactic setting
 - K. Patterns of absenteeism and/or lateness
 - L. Alterations in student clinical and/or didactic performance that may not be attributed to other causes
 - M. Following a work-related injury or illness
 - N. Observation of poor judgment or careless acts which caused or had the potential to cause patient injury, jeopardize the safety of self or others or resulted in damage to equipment
3. A faculty member who suspects possible substance abuse by a student reports the suspicious behavior immediately to the Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs. Once the Senior Associate Dean is notified that a student has been suspected of violating the substance abuse policy, the student will be referred for mandatory evaluation through a designated/approved program and/or mandatory testing through a designated testing laboratory in accordance with College of Medicine policies. The Senior Associate Dean has the authority to temporarily suspend the student from clinical education experiences pending the final results of any mandated evaluations or laboratory tests.
4. A student convicted of violating any federal, state or local law or regulation pertaining to the manufacture, possession, sale, use or distribution of a drug or alcohol or misuse of prescribed or over the counter medications must report this conviction to the Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs within five days of the conviction. Failure or refusal to comply with any aspect of the substance abuse policy is grounds for disciplinary sanction, including dismissal from the College of Medicine. Examples of noncompliance include, but are not limited to, refusal to submit to immediate drug and alcohol testing, tampering or alteration of specimens, attempts to submit the samples of another person as the student's own, and failure to appropriately complete associated program or testing laboratory documents.

Testing Procedure

Drug and alcohol testing required by the Program will be conducted utilizing the following measures:

1. The student must be tested at a laboratory designated by the Program.
2. The student will sign the chain of custody forms and any other documents provided by the testing laboratory.
3. The test shall screen for the use of common controlled substances and any other controlled substances that are suspected of being abused or used by the student.
4. Urine, serum, hair and saliva analysis or a combination of these testing methods may be utilized.
5. The student will disclose any prescribed or over-the-counter medications as well as any dietary habits that could modify testing results as requested. The student must fully comply with the testing laboratory's methods and procedures for collecting samples.
6. If the accuracy of a positive test is disputed by the student, the student may request a retesting of samples by the laboratory.

7. Substance use is verified if either: (i) the positive test result is not disputed or (ii) the student-requested retest is positive.
8. See above policies and procedures for management of students with positive drug tests.

Confidentiality

The requirement that a student be tested as well as the test results will remain confidential and disclosed only to those individuals within Drexel University or an affiliated clinical site with a need to know or as required by law or regulation.

Sanctions

If there is suspicion of impairment in an enrolled student due to directly observed behaviors, reported behaviors, and/or positive drug testing, the Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs will refer the student for necessary laboratory testing and evaluation(s) by the Pennsylvania (PA) Physician's Health Program. When a student is required to complete an evaluation by the PA Physician's Health Program, the College of Medicine will require compliance with the recommended evaluation and/or treatment plan as defined by the PA Physician's Health Program. The Senior Associate Dean has the authority to temporarily suspend the student from clinical education involving patient care pending the conclusion of any required evaluation and/or student judicial process.

Compliance

Failure or refusal to comply with any aspect of the substance abuse policy will be reported to the Honor Court and/or Promotions Committee for possible disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Handbook.

Voluntary Self-Disclosure

Students can also self-report to the PA Physician's Health Program. Students can also seek out additional counseling and treatment resources that are available by consulting with the Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs.

Students who voluntarily self-disclose a substance or alcohol abuse problem to the Senior Associate Dean prior to a positive drug/alcohol test result and who are willing to enter in to and complete an appropriate program of treatment will not be reported by the Senior Associate Dean to the Promotions Committee for disciplinary action or sanction. Such a student, after consultation with their health care provider, may request a medical leave of absence from the Program in order to participate in a treatment program. At the end of the leave of absence, if the student wishes to re-enter the program the case will be reviewed by the Senior Associate Dean and the Promotions Committee to determine if the student will be permitted to reenter the program. If approved, the student must sign a reentry contract as described in Section VIII of this policy.

Reentry into the Academic and Clinical Environment

A student who has taken an approved leave of absence from the Program due to substance abuse may be eligible to reenter the Program if any necessary medical clearances have been received and if their return has been approved by the PA Physician's Health Program. Before reentry into the MD program, a contract will be established between the Program and the recovering student; the contract will include any requirements and/or stipulations upon return and/or any specific monitoring requirements. A student in recovery who is permitted to reenter

the MD Program will comply with the conditions of readmission delineated in a signed contract of program reentry.

