



## REPORTING PROCEDURE FOR WORK-RELATED INJURIES AND EXPOSURES

February 18, 2010

**Purpose:** To provide guidance in the proper procedure for management of work-related injuries and exposures.

**Scope:** This policy applies to all residents and fellows employed by UMKC.

**Background:** It is necessary to follow UMKC Human Resources Policy for the management of work-related injuries to ensure that the affected resident or fellow maintains his/her eligibility for all possible workman's compensation and disability benefits, if such assistance is needed.

For workers in the healthcare setting, there are three major types of injuries or exposures, that each require a different approach to management: 1) Exposure to air or blood-borne pathogens, 2) Immediately life-threatening or emergent injuries, and 3) Injuries that do not require emergent therapy.

### **Exposure to Air or Blood-borne Pathogens:**

Work place exposure to air or blood-borne pathogens often requires immediate attention, as well as careful investigation and management to prevent similar exposure to other, at risk, individuals. Each affiliated hospital has a procedure for evaluation of such exposures. Upon exposure:

1. The resident is to report the incident immediately, as defined by the hospital protocol. During normal business hours, this typically requires reporting to the hospital occupational health department. After hours, the Emergency Department commonly manages occupational exposures.
2. All hospitals require completion of an incident report and provide initial testing, counseling, monitoring and treatment for pathogen exposures. The cost of these services is the responsibility of the hospital and the resident will not be charged for this care.
3. If the resident requires, or chooses to seek, additional medical attention beyond the initial evaluation at the affiliated hospital, UMKC Risk Management (816-235-1623) must be contacted prior to the medical evaluation. Failure to contact Risk Management will limit the extent that Workman's Compensation may be used to cover medical evaluation and treatment and the resident may be held personally responsible for the cost of the medical care.

### **Emergent or Life-Threatening Injuries**

For life-threatening injuries, the resident should seek attention at the closest Emergency Department. As soon as is reasonably possible, the UMKC Risk Management Office (816-235-1623) should be contacted, to allow for appropriate Workman's Compensation coverage.

### **Non-Life Threatening Injuries**

A choice of three options for medical care exists:

1. Seek medical attention immediately by contacting the UMKC Risk Management Office at 235-1623 (highly recommended preference).
2. Seek medical attention on your own at your own expense.
3. Seek medical attention at a later date which may complicate the worker's compensation claim.

**GME Office:** The GME Office will assist the resident with appropriate contacts and completion of required information requests, as needed.

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