

LAKE WASHINGTON INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DENTAL PROGRAMS POLICY ADDRESSING BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS/INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The purpose of this Policy Addressing Bloodborne Pathogens (PABP) is to minimize the potential for environmental hazards and transmission of bloodborne pathogens. The Lake Washington Institute of Technology Dental Programs are committed to defining and addressing issues related to bloodborne pathogens to protect patients, students, faculty, staff and the rights of individuals who may have a bloodborne infectious disease. The issues addressed in this policy pertain to bloodborne pathogens such as Human Immunodeficiency (HIV), Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) and Hepatitis C Virus (HCV).

Admission/Employment

The LWTech Dental Programs will not discriminate against employees, students, applicants for admission or 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 respective dental program director prior to application.

Immunizations

The risk for exposure to Hepatitis B is higher for Dental Health Care Providers (DHCP) than the general population. It is therefore recommended that students start the vaccination process for Hepatitis B as soon as they receive acceptance into the dental hygiene or dental assisting program. A comprehensive medical history, physical examination, negative Tuberculin (Mantoux) skin test (negative chest x-ray if positive or contraindicated) and immunizations are additional requirements for dental program students.

HIV testing

Testing for HIV for dental health care providers (DHCP) and students is not required by the Dental Programs. However, health care 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 the medical condition permits patient care and does not jeopardize the health of other individuals. In the event that an individual poses a risk to others, the Dental Hygiene/Assisting administrator 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. A copy of the Notice of Privacy Practices is available on the LWTech website and in the LWTech dental clinic.

Bloodborne Pathogen & Infection Control Training

The LWTech Dental Programs comply 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 dental hygiene/assisting curriculum, at yearly required bloodborne pathogen training sessions and through documents such as the Dental Program Infection Control Policy/Exposure Control Procedures Manual. Compliance with safety practices is evaluated throughout the students' clinical experience to ensure a safe educational and work environment.

Limitation of Activity

The LWTech Dental Programs will follow CDC suggested work restrictions for health-care personnel infected with, or exposed to major infectious diseases in the dental clinic.

Enforcement of Practice Limitations or Modifications

Any student or DHCP who engages in unsafe and/or careless clinical practices that create risk 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 Administrator, the student or DHCP may be suspended immediately from all patient care activities pending a full investigation of the matter.

Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens

DHCP or students who are exposed to a bloodborne pathogen in the course of their clinical care are expected to follow the procedures set forth in the LWTech Dental Program Infection Control Policy/Exposure Control Procedures 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 and patient will be asked to be tested for disease.

Environmental Hazards

Environmental hazards of dental hygiene/assisting 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.

Communication of Policy Addressing Bloodborne Pathogens to Dental Clinic Patients

Patients seeking dental treatment in the LWTech Dental Clinic are informed of the policy addressing bloodborne pathogens at their initial appointment. Patients are asked to read the Clinic Brochure which includes the "Policy on Communicable Diseases" and are given a copy of the "Patient Rights". The LWTech Policy Addressing Bloodborne Pathogens is available upon request in the dental clinic.