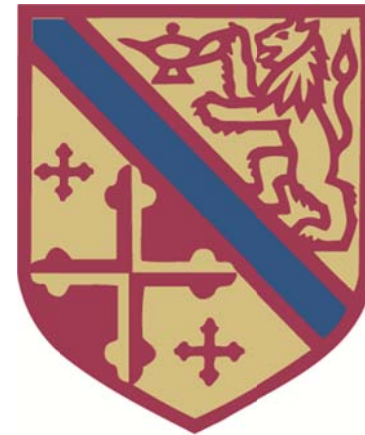


Clinical Student Booklet Health Sciences Division



Spring 2011 – Summer 2012
Revised 7-11-2011



Clinical Coordinators

Linda Simpson St. Clair, MA, RN
(443) 518-4028
Office: N223
E-mail:
lsimpsonstclair@howardcc.edu

Margaret Tricoli, RN, BSN
Clinical Coordinator
Phone: (443) 518-4204
Office: N223
E-mail: mtricoli@howardcc.edu

Please feel free to contact me to find out what you have to update.

This contact information is for health form, criminal background and urine drug screening related questions only.

IF YOU HAVE any other questions, please refer to ADMISSIONS AND ADVISING.

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE Health Sciences Clinical Student Booklet

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PLEASE NOTE:

All Health Sciences students should refer to this booklet for Health and criminal background requirements.

For program specific requirements, please refer to the Program Director in regards to Cardiovascular Technology, Emergency Medical Services and Radiologic Technology.

EMT-P: CPR is provided within course.

Clinical Clearance Card

All students enrolled in the clinical courses at HCC will receive a Clinical Clearance Card at the start of class, once completed Health Forms have been received by the Clinical Coordinator. The clinical clearance card must be shown to the course leader and/or clinical instructor in order to be able to participate in clinical rotations. All students are responsible for maintaining current CPR certifications and TB monitoring. If either CPR or PPD expires during the session, you must bring in the necessary documentation to Health Sciences Division office prior to the published deadline dates and then you will be issued a new card by the Clinical Coordinator. Dates are available on the HCC Health Sciences Division website.

If a card becomes lost or stolen, immediately contact the Clinical Coordinator to have a new card processed and replaced.

EMT-P, CVT, Rad Tech:


We no longer accept PPD or CPR certifications expiring mid semester.

If you were **admitted to the fall semester**, you need to make sure that your PPD and CPR is done during the Summer break, and is in the Health Sciences Division office **no later than August 10.**

If you were **admitted to the spring semester**, you need to make sure that your PPD and CPR is in the Health Sciences Division office **no later than January 15.**

Students will NOT be allowed into the clinical setting without presenting a Clinical Clearance Card to the HCC Instructor prior to the Clinical Rotation. Any clinical days missed as a result of lost, misplaced or stolen cards will be counted toward total absences allowed in the course.

Students enrolled in the clinical courses at HCC are responsible for keeping their Clinical Clearance Card up to date.

 HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE <i>You Can Get There From Here.</i>		Released for Clinical
Name		
CPR Expiration		
TB Expiration		
Released by		
*This card MUST be renewed before the first day of the semester in which the CPR and/or PPD expire.		

Admission Date	Complete By:	But Not Before:
Summer 2011	June 1, 2011**	May 1, 2011
Fall 2011	August 23, 2011	July 24, 2011
Spring 2012	January 30, 2012	January 1, 2012

**Radiologic Technology students should follow Fall deadlines

Please keep in mind that PreCheck is on Central Time, therefore wait for the appropriate dates and time to submit.

***If you currently have an immigration visa and are in the process of applying for a green card, contact PreCheck directly.**

Please note: Howard Community College administration, faculty and staff do not receive any information of student urine drug screen report. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the report, please contact PreCheck directly and NOT the school.

*Welcome to the Nurse Education Program of
Howard Community College!*

You have chosen a wonderful, exciting and rewarding profession. The nursing faculty is committed to helping you reach your goal as a nurse by providing you with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking necessary to begin your career.

The program that you have entered will require your diligence and a commitment to excellence. It is our desire to facilitate your learning by providing the knowledge and skills that will guide you throughout your nursing career.

The faculty is looking forward to your success, and the health care community is looking forward to your contribution. Best of luck!

Sincerely,

Donna Minor

Donna Minor, EdD(c), MSN, RN
Director of Nursing
DMinor@howardcc.edu

*I salute you for making the choice to be part of the
World of Radiology!*

Welcome

You are a pioneer, part of the Howard County, and Howard Community College's quest to fill the shortage for radiographers. This profession is exciting and rewarding. You will help on both sides of the medical profession by manifesting images that were not seen before.

Radiology is on the cutting edge with technology and you are entering at a time that were the games of your youth can be used as an advantage to help you and others in the World of Radiology.

We require something else from you. We require your commitment to excellence. We require that you maximize the moments of this two-year course of study with diligence.

Howard Community College "can help you get there". There is the knowledge and skills that will provide for you throughout your commitment to the World of Radiology.

We look forward to your success and contribution to the healthcare field and the World of Radiology.

Success and Peace,

Evelyn Gary

Evelyn Gary MPA, ARRT (R) (M)
Director Radiologic Technology
EGary@howardcc.edu

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- **How long does the report take to complete?** Most reports are completed within 3 business days.
- **Do I get a copy of the report?** You may call PreCheck's Adverse Action hotline at 800-203-1654 to request a copy of the report for free.
- **I have been advised that I cannot continue in the program because of my drug screen results. Where should I call?** You should have received a call from the Medical Review Officer and a letter explaining your results. If you wish to contest the results please contact PreCheck's Adverse Action hotline at 800-203-1654.

Urine Drug Screening Instructions

All Nursing, Cardiovascular Technology, Radiologic Technology, and EMS students must complete Urine Drug Screening.

Please Go To: www.howardcc.edu

Select: Academics

Select: Academic Divisions

Select: Health Sciences

On left hand side of screen,

Select: Clearance Requirements

Select: Urine Drug Screening Instructions & Link

Read Page Carefully

Urine drug screening MUST BE DONE within 48 hours of payment

You do not need to bring us back a slip from LabCorp. Please hold on to it for your records. We only accept Urine Drug screening through PreCheck and Labcorp. **We cannot accept urine drug screening from any other company.** The registration must be completed within 30 days of the start of class. **You must comply with the specific dates or be subject to pay twice for the background check.**

Urine Drug Screening

Specific hospitals associated with our clinical education program require drug screening on incoming students to insure the safety of the patients treated by students in the program. You will be required to order your drug screening check **no more than** 30 days prior to the start of classes. A drug screen typically takes 1-3 normal business days to complete.

The drug screens are conducted by Labcorp, a firm specializing in drug screen testing. Your order must be placed online through PreCheck, Inc.

Go to **www.howardcc.edu**; under the Health Sciences Division website you will find a direct link to the correct website to complete your order. Here you will also find all of our instructions and deadlines.

Complete all required fields and hit Continue to enter your payment information. The payment can be made securely online with a credit or debit card. **Maryland students will pay \$46.00.** For your records, you will be provided a receipt and confirmation page of your drug screening order placed through PreCheck, Inc.

To complete the drug screen, you must provide a copy of the receipt to Meg Tricoli or Linda Simpson-St. Clair in order to receive a lab slip to submit for drug testing. There can be no more than 48 hours between payment and giving the sample. To locate a collection site, please visit the Health Sciences Division website.

PreCheck will not use your information for any other purposes other than associating your information with your Urine Drug Screen. Your credit will not be investigated, and your name will not be given out to any businesses.

If you need assistance, please contact PreCheck at StudentCheck@PreCheck.com, Meg Tricoli or Linda Simpson-St. Clair.

*Welcome to the Cardiovascular Technology Program of
Howard Community College!*

You have chosen an ambitious ever changing exciting and rewarding profession. The cardiovascular faculty is committed to helping you reach your goal as a cardiovascular technologist by providing you with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking necessary to begin your career.

The program that you have entered will require your diligence and a commitment to excellence. It is our desire to facilitate your learning by providing the knowledge and skills that will guide you throughout your cardiovascular career.

The faculty is looking forward to your success, and the health care community is looking forward to your contribution. Best of luck!

Sincerely,

William Fisher

William Fisher, M.Ed., RCIS
Director of Cardiovascular Technology
wfisher@howardcc.edu

Throughout the curriculum you will be assigned to a clinical facility. Each facility has specific requirements. Depending on which facility you are assigned, you will be required to meet specific criteria and guidelines.

*Welcome to the Paramedic Program at
Howard Community College!*

The faculty is committed to helping you reach your goal for EMT or paramedic by providing you with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking necessary to begin your career. The faculty of this program, themselves exemplary providers, take a no-nonsense approach to patient care and bring their passion for excellence into the classroom environment. Our clinical and field sites understand the world of EMS and provide a fantastic learning environment.

Compared to the other EMS programs in the state, this program is accelerated and you will complete in eleven months what other programs complete in eighteen. This aggressive pace will require your diligence and a commitment to excellence. In addition to the academic challenges you should maintain a high level of wellness and fitness while in the program as well.

The faculty is looking forward to your success, and the community is looking forward to your contribution. Best of luck!

Sincerely,

Angel Clark Burba

Angel Clark Burba, MS, EMT-P, NCEE
EMS Program Director
aburba@howardcc.edu

Please note: Howard Community College administration, faculty, and staff do not receive any information of the student's criminal background report. If you have any concerns regarding your background past, please contact Pre-Check directly and NOT the school.

The only acceptable criminal background check is through Pre-Check. We cannot accept background checks from any other company.

Again, the registration must be completed within 90 days prior to the start of class but no later than 3 weeks before the start of class. You must comply with the specific dates or be subjected to pay twice for the background check.

You must comply with the specific dates or be subject to pay twice for the Criminal Background Check

Admission Date	Complete By:	But Not Before:
Summer 2011	April 10, 2011**	March 3, 2011
Fall 2011	July 10, 2011	June 5, 2011
Spring 2012	December 10, 2011	November 6, 2011

**Radiologic Technology students should follow Fall deadlines

Please keep in mind that PreCheck is on Central Time, therefore wait for the appropriate dates and time to submit.

***If you currently have an immigration visa and are in the process of applying for a green card, contact PreCheck directly.**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- **How long does the report take to complete?** Most reports are completed within 3 business days.
- **Do I get a copy of the report?** You may call PreCheck's Adverse Action hotline at 800-203-1654 to request a copy of the report for free.
- **I have been advised that I cannot continue in the program because of my criminal background results. Where should I call?** You should contact Meg Tricoli or Linda Simpson-St. Clair.. If you wish to contest the results please contact PreCheck's Adverse Action hotline at 1-800-203-1654.

Criminal Background Instructions

All Health Sciences students must complete a Criminal Background Check.

Please Go To: www.howardcc.edu

Select: Academics

Select: Academic Divisions

Select: Health Sciences

On left hand side of screen,

Select: Clearance Requirements

Select: Criminal Background Check Instructions & Link

Read Page Carefully

Essential Functions for Health Sciences Practice Programs

Essential functions are qualifications, abilities, knowledge, and skills necessary to meet standards of practice in the health care field. The Health Sciences Division has established a standard of essential performance functions meeting the high standard of care expected of the Howard Community College Nursing students. This document is provided with the goal that the applicant will assess their abilities to meet these standards prior to entering the program.

Working with patients in the health care field demands intelligence, sound judgment, intellectual honesty, the ability to relate with people and the capacity to react to emergencies in a calm and reasoned manner. An attitude of respect for self and others, adherence to the concepts of privilege and confidentiality in communicating with patients, and commitment to the patient's welfare are essential attributes.

The student should be able to:

- ◆ Have the academic ability to learn large volumes of technically detailed information and be able to synthesize this data to solve complex clinical problems. The information must be processed in short intense periods of study which demands well-developed study skills, high motivation, and potentially a personal or financial sacrifice.
- ◆ Have the mental, emotional, and physical ability to complete the program in the required sequence.
- ◆ Possess emotional maturity and stability to approach highly stressful human situations in a calm, safe and rational manner.
- ◆ Incorporate well developed oral and written English language communication skills.
- ◆ Be physically and academically prepared and organized to participate in clinical assignments which occur at different times in a variety of geographic locations.

Criminal Background Check

- ◆ Display ethical integrity consistent with the standards of the health care profession.
- ◆ Demonstrate physical abilities (sensory function, hand-eye coordination, auditory ability, and neuromuscular control) to competently perform technical aspects of the clinical experience. The skills include:
 - performing in-depth physical assessments,
 - standing or walking up to 8-12 hours,
 - vital sign measurements, injections, dressing changes, medication administration, etc.,
 - physical activity for common procedures that require large motor skills such as stooping, bending, lifting, turning, transferring and ambulating adult patients.

Health Information Requirements

1. Students are required to have a physical examination and submit a Health Form, which has been completed by their Health Care Provider. This form states that the student is physically and psychologically able to meet the requirements of a health sciences education program. **The form must be signed and dated.**
2. The policies governing CPR certification and Health Requirements are designed to safeguard the health and well-being of the students, as well as all patients and clients encountered during the educational process. **Verification of continued CPR certification and absence of tuberculosis are prerequisites to the clinical experience. MUST BE KEPT UP-TO-DATE. See pg. 22.**
3. The physical examination must be completed by a Health Care Provider (Doctor, Physician's Assistant, or Nurse Practitioner). Health forms signed by a non-licensed health care provider will not be accepted.

The hospitals associated with our clinical education program require criminal background checks on incoming students to insure the safety of the patients treated by students in the program. You will be required to order your criminal background check **no more than 90 days** prior to the start of classes. A criminal background check typically takes 1-3 normal business days to complete.

The criminal background checks are conducted by PreCheck, Inc., an organization specializing in background checks.

Go to **www.howardcc.edu**; under the Health Sciences Division website; you will find a direct link to the correct website to complete your order. Here you will also find all of our instructions and deadlines.

Complete all required fields and hit Continue to enter your payment information. The payment can be made securely online with a credit or debit card. **New students will pay \$49.50. For readmit students who have previously completed a background check for HCC, the cost is \$26.** For your records, you will be provided a receipt and confirmation page of your criminal background check order placed through PreCheck, Inc.

To complete the criminal background check, you must turn in a copy of the receipt with your Health Form.

PreCheck will not use your information for any other purposes other than associating your information with your criminal background check. Your credit will not be investigated, and your name will not be given out to any businesses.

If you need assistance, please contact PreCheck at StudentCheck@PreCheck.com, Meg Tricoli or Linda Simpson-St. Clair.

- Paramedical Personnel of Maryland
(410) 838-8821 or (800) 788-2771
- Chesapeake Region Safety Council
(410) 298-4770 or (800) 875-4770
- Health Quest
(410) 988-9441
- **CPR, AED, Safety Education
(301) 681-4300**
(Joanne Hirsh - \$5.00 discount for HCC students
Classes every Wednesday evening and Saturday)
- www.lifeworkhealth.com
(Renewal Only)

4. **If the student has a medical condition or is pregnant, the health care provider must provide a letter** stating that the student is physically able to enter the program and/or return to clinical. **If you have any changes in medical status while in the program, the health care provider must also provide letter.**
5. Students are required to include documentation of **immunity status** to: MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) and Varicella. This includes documentation of blood titers, and booster. Even if you have had the vaccinations for MMR and varicella, you must show proof of immunity through titers. **Results of the titers must be attached.**
6. If the blood titer results demonstrate insufficient (equivocal) or no immunity, then a vaccination booster is required with written documentation of the date received.
7. Even if you had the Chickenpox virus or the vaccine as a child, it is required that you have the blood titer drawn to confirm immunity status. **Results of the titer must be attached.**
8. Hepatitis A is **highly recommended** for health care workers but are not required for admission in a health sciences program. Those at risk should also consider the pneumococcal vaccination.
9. Seasonal flu vaccine is required annually. Please refer to p.g 11 of this booklet.
10. **Student responsibilities regarding change of health status or pregnancy** and possible smallpox immunization are also included in pages 8-10 of this booklet.
11. Students who receive the smallpox vaccine may not attend clinical for a minimum of 28 days **and** until the vaccination site is completely healed.
12. While you are a student in the Health Sciences Division at Howard Community College you will be covered by the

college's **liability insurance** while you are attending approved clinical activities arranged by faculty in the Health Sciences Division. This liability insurance provides for legal expenses (to the limits specified by the coverage) in the event that you are sued by a patient for malpractice or negligence. You will be eligible for coverage provided you were acting within the scope of your abilities and were being appropriately supervised at the time the incident occurred.

Liability insurance is not the same as health insurance. It is important for you to understand that Howard Community College does not carry health insurance for its students. In other words, if you are accidentally stuck with a dirty needle while working in a clinical setting, your own health insurance will be used to pay for any testing and follow-up care. In the event that your personal insurance carrier refuses to pay for some or all of those costs it will be up to the student to bear the remaining costs. **Howard Community College will not cover student health care costs. Students are strongly urged to obtain your own health insurance.**

CPR Requirements & Resources

- **The only acceptable certification: The American Heart Association Basic Life Support for Health Care Providers (BLS)**
- Students are required to submit proof of **current CPR certification.**
- A copy of the front and back of the card is required.
- Students with expired CPR certifications are not allowed to continue in clinical.
- Currently this requirement can also be met by successful completion of **HEED-112**. This course is an American Red Cross certification.
- Online CPR courses are not acceptable., i.e., PROCPR.ORG
- National Safety Council and America Red Cross (Health Care Provider) are **NOT** accepted.

Possible Resources for AHA Basic Life Support for Health Care Providers:

- AHA Direct Numbers
1-800-242-8721
1-888-277-5463
- Howard Community College
Continuing Education
(443) 518-1700
- Advanced Care Training, LLC
(443) 677-2388
- Maryland Chapter of the American Heart Association
(410) 685-7074

Where To Go To Have The Health Form Completed

Your Primary Care Physician or any Licensed Care Provider (PA or NP) can complete your Health Form including your physical examination, titers, PPD and any needed booster shots.

We also have a list of other facilities that will perform these services for a fee. Please contact the Clinical Coordinator for more information.

The Howard County Health Department no longer provides TB screening or titers for Howard Community College students. They will continue to do immunizations for a fee.

REMEMBER:

You must have your Health care Provider complete and **sign** the physical form. There are also three sections for you to fill out and/or sign.

If you have any questions or concerns, PLEASE contact the Clinical Coordinators at:

Meg Tricoli, RN, BSN
(443) 518-4204

Linda Simpson-St. Clair, MA, RN
(443) 518-4028

Seasonal Flu Vaccination

Currently, all students enrolled in Health Sciences Programs must obtain a seasonal flu vaccine. *This vaccine will be required to be renewed every fall semester and is considered an annual requirement.* The CDC recommends a yearly seasonal flu vaccine and all facilities used in this program require the flu vaccine in order for students to participate in clinicals.

The seasonal flu vaccine protects against the three seasonal viruses that research suggests will be most common. One of the strains in the seasonal flu vaccine may be the H1N1 virus. It is important for health care workers, and other people who live with or care for high risk people to prevent giving the flu to those at high risk.

If you have a religious or medical reason to decline the flu vaccine, please fill out the waiver and attach the appropriate paperwork.

- For medical reasons, you will need to supply a letter from the physician indicating why the vaccine is medically contraindicated.
- For religious reasons, you will need to supply the name of your religious affiliation.

If you choose not to receive the vaccine due to moral reasons (which is any reason other than medical or religious), you will fill out the waiver form and verify that you have received and read the CDC guideline handout entitled "Take 3 Steps to Fight the Flu".

Please note that some facilities **will not** accept a moral waiver which may endanger your completion of the program. Any absences incurred because of vaccination exemption or immunity status will count against the maximum allowed in the course.

Tetanus Immunization

This is a required vaccination that must be current within the last eight years. If the date of your last immunization is greater than eight years, a Tdap booster is required. You must submit written documentation of the booster received.

Tdap: Tetanus and Pertussis Immunization Information:

Health-care personnel who work in hospitals or ambulatory care settings and have direct patient contact should receive a single dose of Tdap if they have not previously received Tetanus vaccination. Priority should be given to vaccination of health-care personnel with direct contact with infants ages less than 12 months. An interval as short as 2 years from the last dose of Td is recommended for the Tdap dose.

The rationale for the Tdap is due to the increase in documented patients having the Pertussis virus, which is a highly contagious respiratory infection. Adults with Pertussis can transmit the infection to other people, including infants. Infants are at highest risk of pertussis-related complications and death compared to older age groups. The increase in documented cases shows a possible decrease in the effectiveness of vaccine protection from the childhood immunization for Pertussis.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends: routine use of a single dose of TDAP for adults 19-64 years of age to replace the next booster dose of tetanus and diphtheria toxoids vaccine (Td). The ACIP also recommends Tdap for adults who have close contact with infants less than 12 months of age. On February 22, 2006, ACIP recommended Tdap for health-care professionals as soon as feasible.

Sample of Required Documentation if PPD is Positive:

Tuberculosis Questionnaire:

Form to be completed at the time of physical. This form is to be done if the student has a positive PPD, and the health care provider feels a chest x-ray is not necessary for a yearly follow-up.

Does the student have a fever?	Yes	No
Is the student experiencing any chills or night sweats?	Yes	No
Does the student tire easily?	Yes	No
Has the student had any loss of appetite?	Yes	No
Has the student had any sudden, unexplained weight loss?	Yes	No
Has the student had a productive or prolonged cough of any type for > 3 weeks?	Yes	No
If the student has had a cough, are they spitting up any blood?	Yes	No
Has the student had any chest pain?	Yes	No

Form is available at N223 or on the Health Sciences Division website.

Tuberculosis Verification

- Students must present proof of the absence of active tuberculosis (TB) either by submitting a yearly PPD result, or a completed Tuberculosis Questionnaire (TB QRE) from your Health Care Provider.
 - An initial test must be a 2-step PPD. A 2-step PPD is a baseline TB screening for those who are going to be retested periodically, such as Health Care workers.
 - If your first test is negative, retest in 1-3 weeks (after first test result was read). If your first test is positive, a chest x-ray and a TB questionnaire are required.
 - Students with a history of a positive PPD skin test or BCG vaccination should submit the results of a chest x-ray, and have the health care provider complete Part II of the Health Form and Part III, the TB questionnaire.
- **MUST BE KEPT UP-TO-DATE. See page 27.**
- Students are required to provide verification of the absence of active TB at the beginning of each course and/or clinical rotation, and whenever requested.
- Any student who has had a chest x-ray completed will still need to submit a yearly evaluation for a Tuberculosis screening in the form of the Tuberculosis Questionnaire, signed by their health care provider.
- **If you have any questions in regards to what you need to submit yearly, it is your responsibility to ask the Clinical Coordinator. (See contact information on page 28.)**
FOR CVT, RAD TECH and EMT-P:
 - Fall and Summer Admission: TB screening must not expire prior to May 15th.
Spring Admission: TB screening must not expire prior to December 15th

Hepatitis B Vaccination (HBV)

Please read carefully to understand the importance of this vaccination process. The Health Sciences Division strongly recommends that each student obtain the series of three HBV injections with verification of a blood titer for definitive immune status.

- Students who have completed the HBV series must submit titer results.
- The HBV vaccination/waiver form must be signed and dated.
- If you have had the HBV series in the past, provide dates as proof of the vaccination series, and have a titer drawn.
- If you decline: check the line declining the vaccination and sign.
- The HBV is a series of 3 injections: #1, followed by #2 is one month after #1, and #3 is four to six months after #2. A titer is recommended 4-6 weeks after #3.
- Hepatitis B Surface Antibody Quantitative Serum Titer. This is the only test accepted for immune status confirmation.

WHAT IS HBV?

Hepatitis B virus (HBV) is a potentially life-threatening blood borne pathogen. It causes hepatitis, an inflammation of the liver. Although most people with Hepatitis B recover completely; approximately 6-10% become chronic carriers and 1-2% die. In the group of chronic carriers many have no symptoms but can transmit the virus. Carriers also face a significantly higher risk for other liver ailments such as cirrhosis of the liver and liver cancer.

The HBV infection is transmitted through exposure to blood and other infectious body fluids and tissues including semen, tears, saliva, urine, breast milk, and vaginal secretions. **Health workers and students are at high risk of acquiring Hepatitis B because of frequent contact with blood and potentially contaminated body fluids.** Approximately 8,700 health care workers each year contract Hepatitis B. Health care persons must use work practices and protective clothing and equipment to prevent exposure to potentially infectious materials. These procedures are described in the HCC Nursing Program Infection Control Policy. The best defense against hepatitis B is vaccination.

Hepatitis B Vaccination

WHAT DOES VACCINATION INVOLVE?

The Hepatitis B vaccination is a non-infectious, yeast-based vaccine given in three injections in the arm. It is prepared from recombinant yeast cultures, rather than human blood or plasma. Thus, there is no risk of contamination from other blood borne pathogens, and there is no chance of developing HBV from the vaccine.

The second injection should be given one month after the first, and the third injection within six months after the initial dose. More than 90 percent of those vaccinated will develop immunity to the hepatitis B virus. To ensure immunity, it is important for individuals to receive all three injections and have a blood titer drawn to confirm immunity. Currently, it is unclear how long the immunity lasts so booster shots may be required at some point in the future.

There have been no serious side effects or allergic reactions reported during the course of clinical trials. Some people may experience tenderness and redness at the site of the injection and/or possibly a low grade fever. Rash, nausea, diarrhea, joint pain, fatigue/weakness, and headache have also been reported. Noted serious adverse reactions have occurred infrequently.

Each student should receive counseling from a health care professional before making a decision about vaccination. This discussion should help the student make an informed decision.

WHAT IF I DECLINE VACCINATION?

A person who initially declines to receive the vaccine must sign and return the attached waiver. If the student later chooses to take the vaccine, verification must be submitted to the Health Sciences Division Office ST-149.