Policy: Infectious diseases screening and immunisation for students undertaking clinical placements in health facilities

Purpose

To advise staff and students of the legislative ACT and NSW Government requirements regarding screening and immunisation for specified infectious diseases and blood-borne virus testing.

Overview

Clinical placements are a significant and sometimes mandatory component of a number of programs at the Australian National University (the University). The University relies upon state, territory and private health providers for access to clinical training facilities.

Access to these facilities is regulated by the operators of the facilities. This policy sets out principles that underpin the screening and immunisation for infectious disease requirements for staff and students undertaking clinical placements.

Scope

This policy applies to all staff and students undertaking clinical placements in health facilities.

Policy Statement

Responsibilities of the University

2. The University supports the approach adopted by the applicable Australian state governments and their health services. This policy may be revised from time to time to reflect any developments by state governments.

3. Students are provided with copies of this policy and procedure at the time the University offers them a place in a program. This policy provides links which outline the requirements of ACT and NSW Governments.
Responsibilities of students

4. Students are responsible for complying with all screening and immunisation requirements of health facilities where they undertake clinical placements.

5. Students are responsible for any costs incurred in meeting the requirements.

6. Students infected with a communicable disease, blood–borne virus or respiratory virus, who knowingly participate in clinical placements without notifying the clinical placement facility of their infected status, engage in conduct that is likely to put patients, colleagues and other staff at risk, face disciplinary proceedings that may result in exclusion from the University.

7. Students are advised that it is a criminal offence under the Crimes Act 1900 (NSW) and Crimes Act 1900 (ACT) to intentionally cause or attempt to cause another person to contract an infectious disease. This offence carries a jail term.