Policy - Student Health

Origin Date: February 20, 2014

Last Evaluated: February 5, 2015

Responsible Party: Program Director

Minimum Review Frequency: Annually

Approving Body: Principal Faculty

DPAS Associated Forms:
- Health Information and Immunization Form
- Verification of Health Information and Immunization Form

ARC-PA Associated Standards:
- A1.05 - PA students must be provided student health services equivalent to those services provided other comparable students.
- A3.07 - The program must have and implement a policy on immunization based on current CDC recommendations for health care professionals.
- A3.09 - Principal faculty, the program director and the medical director must not participate as health care providers for students in the program, except in an emergency situation.
- A3.19 - Student files kept by the program must include documentation: (b) that the student has met institution and program health screening and immunization requirements.
- A3.21 - Student health records are confidential and must not be accessible to or reviewed by program, principal or instructional faculty or staff except for immunization and tuberculosis screening results which may be maintained and released with written permission from the student. **ANNOTATION: The ARC-PA does not consider needle stick/sharp records, results of drug screening, or criminal background checks, a part of the health record.**

Background and Purpose

The purpose of this document is to define policies, procedures and availability of health services for students enrolled in the physician assistant program.

Policy Statement

1. All students **MUST** provide proof of health insurance prior to matriculation. Each Student’s personal health insurance policy must remain active throughout their participation in the program.
2. Students are financially responsible for the cost of all health care services they may require while enrolled in the program, including any health care services required as a result of their participation in
scheduled program activities (e.g. TB testing, immunizations, treatment of injuries, pathogen exposure evaluation and treatment).

3. The following health requirements are mandatory prior to any experiential education course at off-site facilities. The immunization requirements must be fully complied with in the first 30 days post matriculation, or the student will be withdrawn from classes without credit.

- **Tuberculosis:** All students must have baseline tuberculosis screening in the form of a tuberculosis skin test (TST) or Quantiferon testing (if applicable) performed in accordance with CDC guidelines within one year of matriculation and again before beginning the clinical phase. Additionally, certain clinical sites may have more stringent requirements. If any TB testing is positive, evaluation (and treatment if indicated) must be completed in accordance with CDC guidelines.

- **Immunizations:** Students must be current on all required immunizations. Either record of immunization or serologic proof of immunity must be provided for all listed conditions recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for health care personnel, to include, but may not be limited to:
  - **Hepatitis B:** Records of the three-dose immunization against Hepatitis B. This series must be started within 30 days of matriculation. Following completion of the Hepatitis B series, a positive (immune) titer must be completed prior to patient contact. Non-converters may require additional immunizations per the CDC recommendations.
  - **Mumps:** 2-dose live attenuated mumps vaccine or two MMRs administered on schedule of which first must be given after one year of age. Documented positive titer is acceptable as proof of immunization.
  - **Rubeola (Measles):** 2-dose live attenuated vaccine or two MMRs administered on schedule of which first must be given after one year of age. Documented positive titer is acceptable as proof of immunization.
  - **Rubella (German Measles):** 1-dose live attenuated rubella vaccine or one MMR administered after one year of age. Documented positive titer is acceptable as proof of immunization.
  - **Varicella:** 2-dose vaccine series being administered on schedule. Note: History of previous infection is not sufficient evidence of immunity. In these cases, titer validating current immunity must be included.
  - **Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis:** Documentation of a completed primary series. All students must get a one-time dose of Tdap as soon as possible if they have not received Tdap previously (regardless of when previous dose of Td was received) and must get Td boosters every 10 years thereafter.
  - **Influenza:** Will be required to obtain influenza immunization annually while enrolled in the program.

- **Other Immunizations:** Students may occasionally be involved in patient care activities that require additional immunizations or disease prophylaxis (e.g. international rotations). It is the responsibility of the student to consult with the PD/DCE to determine if any additional precautions are necessary.

4. Historical documentation without primary source evidence of tuberculosis screening, immunizations and/or serologic proof of immunity will not satisfy the program’s documentation requirements.

- The following qualify as legitimate proof of immunization/TB testing status:
  - Copies of the applicant’s medical record(s) on which administration and results of tuberculosis screening data is recorded.
  - Copies of the applicant’s medical record(s) on which administration of the immunization series is documented by the immunization provider (including immunization cards signed by the administering health care professional/agency).
Copies of the laboratory report(s) documenting results of serologic testing for immunity (antibody test results).

Copies of the applicant’s medical record(s) or a letter from the applicant’s health care provider documenting immunization non-conversion and explaining the process by which that conclusion was reached.

5. Completed immunization forms must be submitted to the HPU Department of Student Health, **NOT to the Department of Physician Assistant Studies**. Students must make copies of the form prior to submitting to Student Health. Once forms are in the possession of Student Health, copies cannot be made.

6. Student Health will notify the PA program of successful completion of required immunizations and TB screening of all students. This record of completion will be retained in the Student File (DPAS Verification of Health Information and Immunization Form).

7. HPU Student Health Services provided by Cornerstone Health Care will retain an electronic copy of student tuberculosis screening test results and record of immunizations. Students will be provided access to these files and will be responsible to provide this information to all clinical sites to which they are assigned for program required supervised clinical practice experience (SCPE).

8. Principal program faculty, program director, medical director, associate medical director, or program staff **WILL NOT** participate as health care providers for students enrolled in the program and **WILL NOT** have access to any student health information other than that defined in this policy.

**Student Insurance through High Point University**

Students without primary health insurance may purchase a health insurance plan offered by High Point University through partnership with United Healthcare/Student Resources, one of the largest student health insurance providers in the United States.

**UNITED HEALTHCARE PLAN**
Additional information is available at www.uhcsr.com/highpoint.

**ELECTING TO PURCHASE THE STUDENT HEALTH PLAN**
Students who do not have health care coverage or students who choose to purchase the policy in addition to their existing health care coverage may enroll through their HPU MyStuff account. After logging on to one’s MyStuff account, look for the “Dining Plan and Health Insurance Information” link. This link will be located under the Service Enrollment group. Insurance cards will be mailed to the student’s home address.

**Approved By:** Principal Faculty

**Modified:** February 5, 2015

**Next Review:** February 2016