

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Policy for Immunization Requirements

Rationale

As healthcare providers, pharmacy students are at risk for exposure to, and possible transmission of, vaccine-preventable diseases. Maintenance of immunity is therefore an essential aspect of prevention and infection control programs for pharmacists. Optimal use of immunizing agents will not only safeguard the health of students but also protects patients from being infected. This policy was developed to reduce the risk that students will contract or transmit vaccine-preventable diseases.

Policy

1. An Immunization Record Form will be mailed to all new students and must be completed and returned to the School of Pharmacy prior to the student's initial registration. On the form, the student must provide proof of immunization and/or proof of immunity by way of a positive titer against the following diseases: measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, hepatitis B, tetanus, diphtheria, and polio. In addition, each student's tuberculin status must be known prior to admission and updated on a yearly basis. Students whose tuberculin test is positive will be asked to provide the School with medical clearance to participate in clinical placement.
2. In order to ensure that students will be able to participate in experiential learning at clinical practice sites, students must complete all of the immunization requirements prior to registration. The immunization requirement will not be waived for any student who is not immunized. Affiliation agreements between the School and sites providing experiential rotations require that all students must comply with public health policies in effect for persons involved in patient care activities at those sites. Therefore, the School cannot place students in experiential learning sites without having documentation of the immunization history spelled out in section 1, and such students will not be able to complete the course requirements for graduation from the doctor of pharmacy program.
3. Documentation of immunization, tuberculin testing and general health will allow the School of Pharmacy to answer queries from hospitals and other experiential learning sites that need to know a student's status with respect to immunity to infectious diseases before caring for patients. With the student's permission, the School will share the information with sites that request documentation.

Dated 2012