

MEDICAL CLEARANCE POLICY FOR RESIDENTS

PURPOSE:

To ensure compliance with District of Columbia Law and the Rules and Regulations of The George Washington University Hospital regarding health clearance policies for employees involved in direct patient care.

STATEMENT:

District of Columbia law states that each individual who is involved in direct patient care must have a medical clearance no more than three months prior and no more than 15 days after the starting date of clinical care, and then annually thereafter. The medical clearance should include a history, physical examination, and clearance of infectious risk. Clearance forms can be filled out by any licensed physician. Residents should obtain medical clearance prior to coming to GWUMC as a resident.

We must be strict about compliance with this regulation in order to comply with D.C. law. It is each resident's responsibility to ensure that this medical clearance is accomplished in the appropriate time frame. *Residents who do not have their health clearance within the allotted time, will be suspended without pay from further participation in their training program until medical clearance is obtained and recorded to the satisfaction of The University.*

REQUIREMENTS:

PPD/Chest Xray Requirement

Tuberculosis is of particular concern here in the District of Columbia. Our goal is to be sure that our providers and patients are protected from and appropriately treated for this highly communicable disease. A CXR report will be accepted only with a previous history of a positive PPD. OSHA requires that the skin test performed on new residents must include a two-step test unless the resident has a documented negative test within the last 12 months. If the resident does have written documentation of a negative PPD within the past twelve months, s/he will need to undergo an additional PPD test during orientation. If the resident is unable to show written documentation of a negative PPD test from the past 12 months, s/he will have two PPD tests performed between 1-3 weeks apart. This prevents us from interpreting an old prior infection as a recent conversion when you are tested annually.

Immunizations

In 1988, GWUMC developed regulations to further reduce the possible spread of communicable diseases such as measles (rubeola), mumps, and German measles (rubella) within its community. Immunization records or proof of immunity by a blood test are required of each resident.

Mumps: A physician-documented history of having had mumps, or proof of immunity to the mumps (the last immunization given in 1980 or later) or proof of immunity by blood

test is required.

Measles (Rubeola): Proof of immunization or proof of immunity by a blood test is required. Measles vaccine should have been given on or after the first birthday and a second one given in 1980 or later. Measles vaccine should be repeated if this is not the case.

German Measles (Rubella): Proof of immunization or proof of immunity by a blood test is required. Two immunizations should have been given since birth. The last immunization should have been given in 1980 or later. Rubella vaccine should be repeated if this is not the case.

Chicken Pox (Varicella Zoster): A titer for varicella is required if the resident does not have physician documentation of having had this disease. If the titer is negative, it is mandatory that the resident receive the vaccine (a series of two injections) unless contra indicated. If a resident is exposed to the virus and has not received the vaccine, he/she will be excluded from duty from the 10th day of exposure to the 21st day and this time off will be charged against sick/annual leave.

Residents must provide proof of immunity or be immunized. Immunization requirements will be waived on receipt of written certification from a physician or public health authority that they are medically contraindicated. A requirement of blood tests will be substituted.

MEDICAL CLEARANCE FOR SUBSEQUENT YEARS:

D.C. Law requires each resident to complete an annual medical clearance. If the Medical Clearance is not accomplished in time, the resident will be suspended from work without pay until the Medical Clearance is appropriately completed.

APPROVED BY GMEC: August 28, 1995

REVIEWED AND REVISED BY GMEC: April 16, 2001

REVISED AND APPROVED BY GMEC: March 17, 2003