



HEALTHCARE WORKERS WITH INFECTIONS

Office of Origin: Department of Occupational Health Services

I. PURPOSE

Healthcare workers who are colonized or infected with potential pathogens are restricted from work to prevent transmission to patients.

II. DEFINITIONS

A. "Healthcare workers (HCW)" refers to all medical center employees, faculty, temporary workers, trainees, volunteers, students, and vendors, regardless of employer. This includes campus-based staff who provide services to or work in UCSF Medical Center patient care or clinical areas.

III. POLICY

1. HCW with acute infections may not have direct patient contact.
2. HCW colonized with organisms associated with recent horizontal transmission at UCSF Medical Center may be restricted from work, or from patient care and other duties at the direction of Occupational Health Services and/or Hospital Epidemiology & Infection Control.
3. Work restrictions shall be enforced according to the [Table of Illness/Infections \(Appendix A\)](#); however more restrictive unit-based policies may be in place which will supersede those in that table.
4. Infection with a blood-borne pathogen does not warrant exclusion from patient care activities. HCW infected with blood-borne pathogens may seek confidential information or counseling regarding their professional activities and safe practice through Occupational Health Services and/or the Department of Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control.

III. REFERENCES:

Guidelines for Infection Control in Health Care Personnel, 1998. American Journal of Infection Control 1998;26:289-354.

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