

MINUTES
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH/CLINICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Members Present: Dr. Robert Adams (Chair), Marie Zeldin, Jennifer Rees, Karen Doran, Susan Tadevich (EHS liaison)

Members Absent: Dr. Tina Harris, Susan Pedersen, Heather Morton, Dr. Enrique Platin, Ann Law, Mike Proctor, Kathy Moore

New Members: Karen Doran (Campus Health)

Former Members: Martha Rojas, Nancy Ferguson

1. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Robert Adams.
2. Tadevich reported on workplace safety statistics reported as of March 8, to June 20, 2006.

Cut, puncture, scrape	3
Fall, slip, trip	3
Absorb/Ingest	2
Needlestick	7
Blood exposure: splash	5
Blood exposure: scalpel/equipment	5
Misc: Other noc	2
Misc: TB	8
Stain Injury	1
Repetitive Motion	1
Strain: Twisting	1
Struck: Object lifted/handled	1
Total	39

Tuberculosis exposures were the highest number of incidences this last quarter. 6 of the 8 incidences occurred by one individual. A Father with active TB brought his child to several clinics over approximately 2 month period.

Needlesticks were the second highest number of incidences. No one population was shown to be at greatest risk this quarter. One occurred in the OR, however, all others occurred as follows: uncapped needle under a towel, dropping a syringe after administering an injection, cleaning a dirty OR and stuck by a dental instrument, rinsing a needle in RPMI., and suturing.

Blood Exposures by scalpels or equipment or by splashes were third highest number of incidences.

Discussion of needlesticks arose. Zeldin proposed to Tadevich to begin researching trends over a year's time to reveal any locations, departments, or positions that may need education, training, supplies, etc. to help prevent future needlesticks. For example, some departments may purchase supplies outside of the Hospital that may not include the safety devices to help with prevention.

Tadevich provided an update from the Occupational Health Clinic. Currently those healthcare workers working with patients, with a primary focus for those working with children, the Tdap vaccine is being offered. Also, as employees are seen for annual PPD's, immunization records are reviewed for Mumps due to the recent outbreak in the Mid West states. For prevention, the protocol being followed is to recommend that all healthcare workers either:

- a. Have written documentation of the disease
- b. Have documentation of positive serology or be offered a titer check
- c. Receive two doses of the MMR vaccine unless contraindicated
- d. Individuals born before 1957, and assumed immune prior to the recent outbreak, must either demonstrate positive serology or receive one dose of the MMR vaccine.

3. Tadevich provided an update to the Tuberculosis Testing Policy. The special "call to vote" committee meeting occurred on April 5, 2006. Dr. Adams called for a vote which was conducted anonymously. The votes were counted by non committee member (Ms. Gray from the Center of Healthy Behavior). The majority of the vote was against the policy change adoption (3 Yes votes vs 4 No votes). Pete Reinhardt informed the SOM of the results. Dr. Furman took the issue to the University Safety and Security Committee (USSC) on June 8, 2006. The USSC approved of the proposal without dissent. Thus, under the new policy, it will be strongly recommended that all healthcare workers receive an annual TST, EHS/UEOHC will continue to charge departments for annual TSTs for their healthcare workers even if they do not participate, and EHS will continue to send out annual notices to employee when they are due. The USSC was assured that units who wish to keep annual TSTs mandatory may do so. This policy will not preclude a stricter policy for a School, Department or employee. EHS will begin reporting compliance rates at the next quarterly meeting in September.
4. A discussion of TB Compliance reports and annual notifications began. Rees noted she was due in May for her annual TST. She has not received an annual notice from the University EHS. Tadevich will check into the issue.
5. Tadevich and Dorn provided preliminary information on the Pandemic/Avian Flu. Tadevich urged members to view the EHS website (www.ehs.unc.edu) for information and updates. Dorn recommended members view the CDC website for planning opportunities.

6. Meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m. Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 20, 2006 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. in the Student Health/Campus Health Services building.