

## **Medical Center Policy 0281 – Health Screenings and Maintenance for Clinical Staff Members Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q** - Why do I have to participate in immunization screenings and respiratory fit testing (RFT)?

**A** - Participation is required to ensure your health, as well as the health of your co-workers and Medical Center patients in the event of an exposure. Health screenings and respiratory fit testing are also required by The Joint Commission and OSHA.

**Q** – Why is this being implemented now?

**A** – Preparation has been occurring for the past year, which included the development and approval of Policy 0281. The Health System is now in a position to implement the policy.

**Q** – Can I just send you my immunization records and be done with this?

**A** – Unfortunately, no. The Joint Commission requires an initial face-to-face health screening.

**Q** – What is UVA-WorkMed’s role in this endeavor?

**A** – UVA-WorkMed is responsible for providing the health screenings and reporting compliance. UVA-WorkMed is not tasked with enforcement nor is it responsible for implementing sanctions.

**Q** – Where can I get this done?

**A** - The initial health screening must take place through UVA-WorkMed. WorkMed will make every attempt to conduct screenings across the footprint of the Medical Center. With regard to annual TB screening and RFT, UVA-WorkMed is collaborating with Employee Health to establish a satellite clinic within the University Hospital. We hope to offer these services in the satellite clinic around January 2009.

**Q** – I’m too busy to attend a satellite clinic, can you come to my clinic?

**A** - UVA-WorkMed will make every attempt to establish satellite clinics that are convenient with regard to time and location. Employees can also contact WorkMed and make an appointment in the WorkMed clinic. Given the significant scope of this undertaking, we cannot come to clinicians on an individual basis to provide these services.

**Q** – How can I find out whether I am compliant?

**A** - UVA-WorkMed will be providing an initial report of compliance to you. Please be patient while we prepare and distribute the initial reports. Moving forward, UVA-WorkMed will be sending an individual report to you in your birth month.

**Q** – I’m being told that I am not compliant, but know I’m compliant. UVA-WorkMed’s records must be wrong.

**A** - In 2007, UVA-WorkMed performed a chart review of every Credentialed Employee and entered the immunization data in the occupational health software it shares with Employee Health. Thus, we feel the records are as accurate as WorkMed can make them. If you have records that contradict ours, please send them to us. We will gladly update your occupational health record.

**Q** – I am not a Clinical Staff Member, do I need to participate?

**A** – While Policy 0281 specifically addresses Clinical Staff Members, it is the intent of the Medical Center to require all employees (regardless of employer) who have direct contact with Medical Center

patients to participate in the immunization screenings. This includes the annual TB screening and respiratory fit testing.

**Q** – What constitutes compliance?

**A** - Please refer to the policy, as it clearly defines compliance. The policy is available through the following link: <http://www.healthsystem.virginia.edu/OPR/manuals/mc/0281Health-Screenings-and-Maintenance-for-Clinical-Staff-Members-for-Enhancement-of-Patient-Safety.pdf>

**Q** – To whom do I provide my immunization records?

**A** - Records need to be provided to UVA-WorkMed. They can be faxed (434-243-0078), mailed (PO Box 800357, Charlottesville, VA 22908), or delivered in person (3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 545 Ray C Hunt Drive, Fontaine Research Park). UVA-WorkMed will provide an acknowledgement of receipt of any records received.

**Q** – If I have a TB screening during the “catch up” phase, why do I have to have another TB screening in my birth month?

**A** - This approach, while it may result in two TB screenings within a 12-month period, is the most practical for quickly improving compliance and subsequently transitioning to birth month screenings.

**Q** – When will respiratory fit testing take place?

**A** - Fit testing will be conducted in earnest beginning in January 2009. It will be provided with TB screening by employee birth month. In the interim, just-in-time fit testing can be provided, if the need arises.

**Q** – What if I can't use one of the disposable respirators used in the Medical Center? What if I have facial hair?

**A** – Currently, employees will be told to contact Clinical Engineering, where they will view a video describing the use of a PAPR. Then, should the employee need a respirator, they will order the proper PAPR hood from the Storeroom and receive the PAPR from Clinical Engineering. In the near future, the employee will be assigned a NetLearning CBL that describes the fit and use of a PAPR. The employee will be required to complete the CBL on an annual basis to maintain RFT compliance.

**Q** – Who do I contact if I have any questions or concerns?

**A** - Please contact Jon Schuch, Director. He is available by email ([jzs@virginia.edu](mailto:jzs@virginia.edu)), phone (434-982-3845), or pager (PIC# 9019).