

**PROPHYLAXIS FUND FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS EXPOSED TO NEEDLE-
PRICK INJURIES AND INFECTED BODY FLUIDS
FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES (FMHS), SU**

Background and purpose of fund

With the rising number of HIV/Aids patients, the risk of exposure to HIV as a result of an injury by a sharp object or of contact with infected body fluids is increasing. A much smaller yet real risk of exposure to syphilis and Hepatitis B and C also exists. A central faculty fund has therefore been established from which the cost of post-exposure prophylactic (PEP) treatment for these conditions is utilised for undergraduate students in the health sciences.

Income for fund

Income for the fund is generated by each undergraduate student registered at the FMHS and by foreign elective undergraduate students and Dentistry students at the UWC contributing to the fund. Each of the first-mentioned students contributes R75.00 per student a year to the fund (from 2011). The student accounts of these students are debited by this amount at the start of every year, after which the amount is transferred to the specific faculty cost centre (R900). This amount is reviewed annually to ensure that the fund remains sustainable.

Postgraduate students are by and large covered by Workmen's Compensation (WCA) legislation, for which their employers are responsible. Postgraduate students not covered by WCA will be assisted at the Campus Health Services (CHS) on a case to case basis.

Application of fund

Students qualify for prophylaxis in accordance with the guidelines of the CHS of the FHS. The guidelines are based on the policy (regarding this matter) of the Occupational Health department at Tygerberg Hospital. For the first twenty-eight (28) days the prophylactic treatment of these students is covered by the fund.

Standard treatment consists of a combination of two drugs. A third drug is used only as an exception in particularly high-risk exposures.

Payment for these drugs and tests will be made only if the drugs and tests are prescribed by the Tygerberg SHS and/or their use is validated by the CHS.

All students must provide proof of Hepatitis B immunisation (to be obtained at their own cost). If Hepatitis B immunoglobulin treatment is required it is for the account of the student.

Control of fund

To ensure correct application of the fund, the fund is managed under the jurisdiction of the Deputy Dean: Education, in consultation with the Director: Business Services and the Head of the Tygerberg CHS. The latter is responsible to verify that all claims comply with these guidelines.

Confidentiality

All cases are treated with the utmost confidentiality. An anonymous register is kept for management and research purposes by the Tygerberg CHS. CHS compiles a yearly report on tendencies in the injury and management profile of these cases.