



Faculty of Health Guidance for Student undertaking theatre Placements: Exposure Prone Procedures

Important Information for Theatre Placements

Please be advised that if you are in a theatre setting, you **must** ensure the staff present are aware that you **may not be involved in exposure prone proceedings**, as you have not been screened for this activity. It is extremely unlikely that you will be asked to participate in such procedures and this will not affect your ability to meet your competencies, to act as a scrub nurse (so long as your hands are completely visible at all times) and have a full and rewarding placement experience.

Exposure Prone Procedures are defined by the Department of Health as “invasive procedures where there is a risk that injury to the worker may result in the exposure of the patient’s open tissues to the blood of the worker. **These include procedures where the worker’s gloved hands may be in contact with sharp instruments, needle tips or sharp tissues inside a patient’s open body cavity, wound or confined anatomical space where the hands may not be completely visible at all times.**”

Screening (which involves testing for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV) is carried out for Midwifery and Paramedic students but is **NOT** required for nursing students as there is no requirement for you to undertake exposure prone proceedings during your placements.

If you are asked to complete any activities that involve invasive procedures that meet the description above you must decline. This is for your own and the patient’s safety.

This does not affect your ability to act as a scrub nurse (so long as your hands are completely visible at all times).

A note has been added to ARC (the Placement Allocation System) and you are asked to alert your placement supervisor / mentor to this information.

(This information is relevant to all nursing students who are allocated a theatre placement).