

# YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

## DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE POLICY

The Youngstown State University Dental Hygiene Program is committed to protecting students, patients, faculty, and staff from exposure to infectious diseases such as TB, HIV or HBV. In addition, the program is committed to protecting the rights of individuals who may have a bloodborne infectious disease.

Program faculty, staff, and students are informed of the risk of infectious diseases through documents such as the Dental Hygiene Program Policies and Procedures Manual, appropriate course syllabi, the "Informed Consent Waiver", and the University "Bloodborne Pathogens" General Program Management. In addition, clinical faculty must complete a bloodborne pathogen training session each year.

Patients are informed of their rights and responsibilities at their first appointment in the clinic. They are asked to read and sign the "Patient Bill of Rights" and "Patient Responsibilities." Some conditions and diseases may require a physician's consultation prior to invasive procedures.

Faculty and students with a communicable disease, for example TB, HIV or HBV and directly involved in patient care should be under the care of a qualified physician. The physician should provide guidance on preventing the spread of infection. Individuals must be accountable and act responsibly in following current Center for Disease Control and Prevention's guidelines for health care workers, established policies by the Ohio State Dental Board, the Ohio Department of Health's guidelines for infected health care workers, and the University. Everyone is encouraged to carefully assess his/her own situation and to seek counseling privately or through the Counseling Center at the University.

The Dental Hygiene Program respects the right of confidentiality and will make every effort to maintain it. Furthermore, a student will be allowed to continue his/her education as long as the medical condition permits and as long as patient care and other students' health are not jeopardized or at risk. In the event that an individual poses a risk to others, the University Expert Panel\* will assist the individual in obtaining counseling and advisement regarding health and education.

#### **\*The University Expert Panel**

- ~ Director, Environmental, Health and Safety
- ~ Vice President, Student Affairs
- ~ University Legal Counsel
- ~ Director, Dental Hygiene Program and/or faculty member
- ~ Dean, College of Health and Human Services
- ~ Chair, Department of Health Professions

**NOTE:** Additional information is available at <http://ysu.edu/ehs>