



Faculty Office

Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery (M02)

University of Sydney

NSW 2006 AUSTRALIA

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Dear Prospective Pre-Registered Nursing Student,

The *NSW Department of Health* requires all health care workers, including **nursing students**, who undertake training or field work in the NSW health care system, **to have a documented screening and vaccination history consistent with the requirements identified in their “Policy Document Number PD2007_006”**.

This policy is available on the NSW Health Department website at <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au>

The specific address for the policy (which is a down loadable PDF file) **is:**

http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/pd/2007/pdf/PD2007_006.pdf

The University has been advised by the NSW Department of Health that "participation in screening and vaccination according to the Policy is a prerequisite for students for clinical placement in the facilities of NSW Health". Students not in possession of a completed “Adult Vaccination Record Card” will be denied access to the facilities of NSW Health.

In order to ensure that all commencing nursing students affected by the NSW Department of Health’s policy are informed of the above requirements, and to ensure sufficient time to assemble the screening and vaccination history, you will receive the necessary forms with your enrolment package prior to your in-person enrolment day.

For your information, it is envisaged that the University of Sydney’s pre-registered nursing students will undertake a clinical placement in NSW Health facilities during the fifth week of the first year of their nursing studies.

Therefore, in addition to this email attached are the following documents:

- A memorandum concerning the University’s involvement in the *NSW Department of Health’s “Occupational Screening and Vaccination Against Infectious Diseases”*;
- A letter from the *Chief Health Officer of the NSW Health Department* about their “*Occupational Screening and Vaccination Against Infectious Diseases*” policy; and
- The *NSW Health of Department’s table of Acceptable Evidence Of Protection Against Specified Infectious Diseases*.

The *NSW Department of Health “Adult Vaccination Record Card”* which you are **required to complete** (by your local doctor) **and retain for the duration of your degree program** will be forwarded to you with your enrolment package.

The University’s involvement in the *NSW Department of Health’s “Occupational Screening and Vaccination Against Infectious Diseases”* policy is limited to the provision of the Registrar’s memorandum and making the attached material available to all commencing students who will be attending clinical placements in facilities operated by the Department during their degree program.

The University Health Service, located in the Wentworth Building and the Holme Building will be able to assist you with the testing and vaccinations required. Contact details are below:

University Health Service

University General Medical Practice

phone: +61 2 9351 3484 (Wentworth)

fax: +61 2 9351 4110 (Wentworth)

location: Level 3

address: G01 – Wentworth, The University of Sydney, NSW 2006 Australia

University Health Service

Location Holme Building A09

+61 2 9351 4095 (Holme)

Dear Student

Occupational Assessment, Screening & Vaccination Against Infectious Diseases

**IMPORTANT REQUIREMENTS FOR
CLINICAL PLACEMENT WITHIN NSW HEALTH FACILITIES**

NSW Health is committed to ensuring the health and safety of all clients in health care settings and providing a safe and healthy working environment for all staff and other clinical personnel, including students. This commitment includes adopting an assessment, screening and vaccination policy that minimises the risk of acquiring infectious diseases.

Prior to the commencement of your first clinical placement, you are required to comply with NSW Health Policy Directive *Occupational Assessment, Screening and Vaccination Against Specified Infectious Diseases*.

Failure to comply with the requirements of the Policy may jeopardise completion of your studies.

The Policy requires that you consult your local doctor to obtain written proof of protection against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, measles, mumps, rubella, chickenpox and hepatitis B. Refer to the *Acceptable evidence of protection against specified infectious diseases* table on the reverse of this letter. **It is recommended that you take this letter to your local doctor.**

Tuberculosis screening must be undertaken prior to clinical placement. Please contact your local Chest Clinic to identify your local TB screening provider.

Once established, proof of protection must be carried with you at all times when on placement in NSW Health facilities. An Adult Vaccination Record Card has been provided for this purpose (enclosed).

As a full course of vaccinations may take several months to complete, you are advised to consult your local doctor well in advance of the commencement of your clinical placement.

The Policy Directive can be accessed at www.health.nsw.gov.au or for further information, contact your local Public Health Unit under "Health" in the White Pages.

Yours sincerely



Kim Stewart
Associate Director, AIDS/Infectious Diseases Branch

7 December 2006

Acceptable Evidence of Protection Against Specified Infectious Diseases

This table provides information regarding the acceptable evidence required to demonstrate protection against the specified infectious diseases covered by the NSW Department of Health policy *Occupational assessment, screening and vaccination against specified infectious diseases*. This document can be found at www.health.nsw.gov.au.

All vaccinations must be given in accordance to the recommendations of the current National Health and Medical Research Council Australian Immunisation Handbook, with particular reference to the indications and contraindications.

Infectious Disease	Acceptable Evidence to Demonstrate Protection
<i>Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis</i>	One documented dose of adult dTpa vaccine.
<i>Hepatitis B</i>	Documented evidence of a completed, age appropriate, course of hepatitis B vaccine <u>and</u> documented evidence of anti-HBs \geq 10mIU/mL; <u>or</u> documented evidence of past hepatitis B infection (anti-HBc).
<i>Measles, mumps, rubella</i>	Birth date before 1966; <u>or</u> documented evidence of two doses of MMR vaccine at least one month apart; <u>or</u> documented evidence of positive IgG for measles, mumps and rubella.
<i>Varicella</i>	History of chickenpox; <u>or</u> documentation of physician-diagnosed shingles; <u>or</u> documented evidence of a positive varicella IgG; <u>or</u> documented evidence of age appropriate varicella vaccination.
<i>TB</i>	Tuberculosis screening must be undertaken prior to clinical placement. Please contact your local Chest Clinic to identify your local TB screening provider.

Pre- and post-vaccination serological testing for diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis is not recommended and should not be undertaken.

Students with a negative or uncertain history of varicella should be serotested.

For further information on immunisation, contact your local Public Health Unit under "Health" in the White Pages.



The University of Sydney

NSW 2006 AUSTRALIA

Dr William Adams
Registrar

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MEMORANDUM

TO: University of Sydney Students Required to Undertake a Clinical Placement in a NSW Health Department Facility.

SUBJECT: Occupational Screening and Vaccination Against Infectious Diseases.

The University is required by the NSW Health Department to make the attached material concerning "Occupational Screening and Vaccination Against Infectious Diseases" available to all commencing students who will be attending clinical placements in facilities operated by the Department at any time during their degree program. As you will see, the Department has a policy that requires all health care workers, including students, who undertake training or field work in the NSW health care system, to have a documented screening and vaccination history consistent with the requirements identified in the "Policy Document Number PD2007_006". This policy is available on the NSW Health Department website at <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au>, the specific address for the policy (which is a down loadable pdf file) is:

http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/pd/2007/pdf/PD2007_006.pdf

The University has been advised by the Department that "participation in screening and vaccination according to the Policy is a prerequisite for students for clinical placement in the facilities of NSW Health". Students not in possession of a completed "Adult Vaccination Record Card" will be denied access to the facilities of NSW Health.

In order to ensure that all commencing students affected by the Department's policy are informed of the above requirements, and to ensure sufficient time to assemble the screening and vaccination history, the University has agreed to distribute the relevant documentation during enrolment. In addition to this letter the documentation includes:

- A letter from the Chief Health Officer of the NSW Health Department;
- An "Adult Vaccination Record Card" which you are required to **complete and retain for the duration of your degree program.**

As stated above the University's involvement in the "Occupational Screening and Vaccination Against Infectious Diseases" program is limited to the provision of this letter and the attached material to the students concerned. However, if you are unsure as to whether you are affected by the Department's policy, or have other related concerns, you are urged to contact your faculty (see below and over).

The University Health Service, located in the Wentworth Building, will be able to assist you with the testing and vaccinations required (telephone (02) 9351 3484 for an appointment).

Faculty of Arts.

Ms N Ramanathan, Student Services Manager – Phone 9351 5224.

Faculty of Dentistry.

Ms A Quinlan, Undergraduate Officer - Phone 9351 8308.

Faculty of Education and Social Work.

Ms M McQuilty, Manager, Student Administration – Phone 9351 4301.

Dr J Harrison, Professional Officer, Field Education (School of Social Work and Policy Studies)

Phone – 9351 6897.

Faculty of Health Sciences.

Ms I Singleton, Acting Team Leader – Learning and Teaching, Faculty of Health Sciences.

Phone 9036 7345.

Faculty of Medicine.

Ms H Triantafyllou, Director, Student Services Unit – Phone 9351 5206.

Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery.

Ms M Carlisle, Clinical Education Officer - Phone 9351 0525.

Faculty of Science.

Ms J Henderson, Pro-Dean – Phone 9351 2005.

Faculty of Pharmacy.

Ms N Da Costa, Student Services Officer (Undergraduate) – Phone 9036 9293.

William Adams

Registrar

December 2006