

Flinders University Student Health Care Worker Refusal of Recommended Vaccinations and/or Screening Tests: Procedure and Process

Introduction

This document provides guidance to Flinders University of South Australia (Flinders University) staff in managing student Health Care Workers (HCW) who refuse recommended vaccinations or screening prior to clinical placement in SA Health services or in other Healthcare Providers services. This document outlines the principles that Flinders University staff can use to manage refusal of recommended vaccinations and/or screening tests in accordance with the *Immunisation for Health Care Workers in South Australia 2016 Policy Directive (Policy Directive)* and SA Health Immunisation Guideline (Immunisation Guideline).

Student HCW's who refuse recommended screening/ vaccination will not be offered clinical placement in any SA Health service.

Student HCWs who have a recognised contraindication (temporary or permanent) to vaccination with a specific vaccine or vaccines, or who have been appropriately vaccinated but have not demonstrated protective levels of antibody (hepatitis B non-responders) will not be considered as having refused vaccination, and managed separately as detailed in Sections 4.6 and 4.7 of the Policy Directive.

Principles

Student HCWs have an obligation to ensure they are compliant with the Policy Directive to meet accreditation standards, to protect staff, patients/clients and visitors from vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs), and to comply with SA Health and Flinders University Work Health and Safety requirements.

Flinders University staff have an obligation to inform student HCW's of the requirements of the Policy Directive prior to clinical placement.

The aim of this refusal procedure is to provide a transparent, standardised process to manage student HCW's who refuse to undergo the recommended vaccinations and/or screening tests regardless of the reasons for refusal.

Procedure

Student HCW's who refuse to undergo the recommended vaccinations and/or screening tests and do not comply with the Policy Directive will not be offered a clinical placement in any SA Health service.

A student HCW who is not offered a clinical placement as a result of refusing recommended vaccinations and/or screening tests may appeal against the decision consistent with the Flinders University policies and procedures.

A student HCW must complete the Flinders University Student Health Care Worker Immunisation Refusal Form upon the decision to refuse the recommended vaccinations and or screening tests

Flinders University Student Health Care Worker Immunisation Refusal Form

Student Name _____

Student Number _____ College/Discipline _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Flinders University position statement

Flinders University has a duty of care to ensure that student health care workers on clinical placements contribute to a safe environment for patients, staff and visitors.

Flinders University has an obligation to inform student health care workers of the requirements of the immunisations and that they comply with SA Health's [Health Care Workers in South Australia Policy Directive](#).

Flinders University acknowledges that immunisation is not mandatory and students may have a legitimate reason for refusing or declining.

Student HCWs who are **unable to be vaccinated due to temporary or permanent medical contraindications**, and who have undergone a further medical assessment, will be referred to the SA Health Immunisation Expert Advisory Panel (IEAP) for advice on organising a suitable placement.

Please indicate the serology and/or vaccine refused:

	<u>Vaccine</u>		<u>Serology</u>	<u>Vaccine</u>
Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (dTpa)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	Hepatitis A	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> YES
		Hepatitis B	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> YES
		Measles/Mumps/Rubella	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> YES
		Varicella (Chickenpox vaccine)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> YES
		Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> YES

Student HCW declaration for refusing recommended vaccination and/or screening

I have discussed the benefits and risks of vaccination with the immunisation provider and have considered the information given. I have also been given the opportunity to discuss any concerns about vaccination with the immunisation provider.

I understand that by refusing a vaccine or screening test I may remain non-immune to vaccine preventable diseases and be a potential source of infection to patients, staff and visitors.

I understand that Flinders University will report to the Executive Director, Public Health and Clinical Services, SA Health, that I am not compliant with the requirements of the SA Health Policy Guideline.

As a result of refusing a vaccine or screening I understand that I will not be offered a clinical placement within SA Health services.

I understand that in the event of reconsideration and subsequent compliance with the Immunisation Guidelines that decisions made in relation to clinical placement will be reconsidered.

Reason(s) for refusal _____

Student HCW's signature _____ Date _____

Flinders University representative name _____

Position _____ Signature _____ Date _____