

HEALTH RISK AND INSURANCE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Assumption of risk. All VNDL students working in a veterinary facility encounter animals which may cause traumatic injury and/or expose them to infectious agents which cause disease. They will also be exposed to ionizing radiation (e.g. X-rays), volatile anesthetic gases, and chemical substances which can cause bodily harm. In enrolling in Clinical Mentorship courses in the Veterinary Nursing Distance Learning Program, students voluntarily accept that these risks exist and assume the responsibility to act safely and responsibly at all times.

Pregnancy. Pregnancy shall be considered a condition for which there are definite health concerns, for which the student needs additional information about these concerns, and for which Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine, the Clinical Mentorship veterinarian(s) and Clinical Mentorship supervisor need assurance that the student has received this information from her physician. In the event of pregnancy, the student must provide written assurance to the College of Veterinary Medicine and the veterinarians and supervisor at the Clinical Mentorship that she has received this information from her physician, understands the risks involved, agrees to take all reasonable precautions, and still desires to continue with her educational program.

Tetanus. If a student has never received tetanus immunization, the student should receive such immunization as advised by his/her physician. If the student has had the initial series, but the last booster was received more than five years ago, the student should seek advisement from his/her physician regarding receiving a booster immunization.

Rabies. Exposure risk: Rabies exposure is an occupational hazard for veterinary professionals, and preventive measures are necessary to protect the veterinary team. The level of risk for rabies exposure is dependent upon the geographical location of the Clinical Mentorship Site, the type of animals to which the student is exposed, and the degree of contact with animals potentially carrying the rabies virus.

Pre-Exposure Vaccination: Per the AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association), "Pre-exposure rabies vaccination provides additional protection for at-risk veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and other team members. Vaccination does not replace good preventive measures such as personal protective equipment, and safe procedures for animal and specimen handling.

Pre-exposure rabies vaccination with either the human diploid cell vaccine (HDCV) or the purified chick embryo cell vaccine (PCEC) is administered intramuscularly in the deltoid area of the arm in a schedule of two injections, with one injection on days 0 and 7. *Failure to complete the series puts you at risk of incomplete protection if exposed to rabies.*

Pre-exposure vaccination can be ordered by a **physician** or arranged through **your local or state health department**. Insurance coverage can vary according to the individual policy. Please consult your medical insurance provider for clarification of coverage.

Purdue University Veterinary Nursing Distance Learning (VNDL) program students are prohibited from handling animals which are unvaccinated or have unknown rabies vaccination history. Exceptions can be made if the patient is not of the appropriate age for vaccination as defined by the state, or if the student has completed the rabies pre- exposure vaccination series and regularly monitors titers.
