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Affliation to Kaloji Narayanarao University of Health Sciences, Warangal, Telangana. Reconginsed by Dental Council of India, New Delhi

NO.MRDCW/Policy/SEP-2018/02

HEPATITIS-B IMMUNIZATION POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Hepatitis B is a global acute and chronic life-threatening liver infection caused by the hepatitis B virus. During cadaveric dissection, clinical rotations, and autopsy posting, medical students get exposed to patients' blood and body fluids, which increases the risk of hepatitis B infection. Hepatitis B can be prevented by vaccines that are safe, easily available, and effective, however many medical students are still unvaccinated. This results in the need for attention to prevent early exposure and provide vaccination at regular intervals during clinical training and professional practice.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this policy is to ensure the health and safety of all students, faculty, and staff at Malla Reddy Dental College for Women (MRDCW) by implementing a comprehensive Hepatitis B immunization program. Hepatitis B is a serious viral infection that can lead to liver damage and other complications if left untreated. By requiring Hepatitis B vaccination for all individuals associated with the college, we aim to prevent the spread of this infectious disease and protect the well-being of our community.

POLICY STATEMENTS

1 Mandatory Vaccination:

All students, faculty, and staff members at MRDCW are required to provide proof of Hepatitis B vaccination as a condition of enrolment or employment.

2 Vaccination Schedule:

Individuals must complete the Hepatitis B vaccination series according to the standard schedule recommended by healthcare authorities, typically consisting of three doses administered over a specified period. The schedule may vary based on individual circumstances, and individuals should consult with their healthcare provider for guidance.

Students:

- First dose: Given in first 6 months of joining the institute
- Second dose: Scheduled one month after the 1st dose.

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- Third dose: Scheduled six months after the 1st dose.
- Students with certain conditions: Vaccination is postponed for students with fever, viral infection, upper respiratory tract infection, etc., until they become asymptomatic.

Faculty:

- Clinical faculty: Vaccinated on the day of joining, followed by 2nd and 3rd doses after 1 and 6 months, respectively.
- Faculty with full vaccination: Referred to a physician.

Non-teaching staff and technicians:

- 1st dose: Given on the day of joining.
- 2nd dose: Scheduled one month after the 1st dose.
- 3rd dose: Scheduled six months after the 1st dose.
- Previously vaccinated staff: Referred to a physician.

Pantry workers:

Provided with all scheduled vaccinations.

3 Exemptions:

Individuals may request an exemption from the Hepatitis B vaccination requirement for medical or religious reasons. Exemption requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and appropriate accommodations will be made in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

4 Education and Awareness:

The college will conduct educational programs and provide resources to increase awareness about Hepatitis B transmission, prevention, and the importance of vaccination. This may include distributing informational materials, organizing seminars or workshops, and integrating Hepatitis B education into the curriculum.

5 Cost Coverage:

The college may cover the cost of Hepatitis B vaccination for students, faculty, and staff members through insurance plans, healthcare benefits, or other means. Financial assistance may be available for individuals who are unable to afford vaccination.

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6 Compliance Monitoring:

The college administration will monitor compliance with the Hepatitis B immunization policy and take appropriate measures to ensure that all individuals meet the vaccination requirement. Non-compliance may result in disciplinary action or restrictions on participation in college activities.

7 Updates and Revisions:

This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure alignment with current healthcare guidelines and best practices. Revisions may be made as necessary to reflect changes in vaccination recommendations, legal requirements, or institutional priorities.

8 Implementation:

- The Hepatitis B immunization policy will be communicated to all current and prospective students, faculty, and staff members through official college communications, including the college website, student handbooks, employment contracts, and orientation sessions.
- The college health services department will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the policy, maintaining vaccination records, and providing assistance to individuals in meeting the vaccination requirement.
- Questions or concerns regarding the Hepatitis B immunization policy should be directed to the college administration or the designated health services personnel for clarification and assistance.

