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### HEPATITIS – B VACCINATION WAIVER

I have received information on hepatitis – B and the hepatitis – B vaccine. I am aware of the indications and contraindications of receiving this vaccine. I have had an opportunity to ask questions. I understand the benefits of possible side-effects of the vaccine. I am aware that, as a student in a medical healthcare program I may be in contact with blood, blood products, or body fluids that have been shown to increase my risk of contracting hepatitis – B.

#### What is Hepatitis – B (HBV)

Hepatitis – B Virus (HBV) is a potentially life-threatening bloodborne pathogen. Center for Disease Control (CDC) estimates there are about 280,000 HBV infections each year in the U.S.

Approximately 8700 health care workers each year contract HBV and about 200 will die as a result. In addition, some who contact HBV will become carriers, passing the disease on to others. Carriers also face a significantly higher risk for other liver ailments; some can be fatal, including cirrhosis of the liver and primary liver cancer.

HBV infection is transmitted through exposure to blood and infectious fluids and tissues. Anyone with occupational exposure to blood is at risk of contracting the infection.

Employers must provide engineering control: workers must use work practices and protective clothing and equipment to prevent exposure to potentially infectious materials.

#### What dose vaccination involve?

The Hepatitis – B vaccination is a noninfectious yeast-based vaccine given in 3 injections in the arm. It is prepared from recombinant yeast cultures, rather than human blood or plasma. Thus, there is not risk of contamination from other bloodborne pathogens nor any chance of developing HBV from the vaccine.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> injection must be given 1 month after the 1<sup>st</sup> dose. The 3<sup>rd</sup> injection is given 6 months after the 2<sup>nd</sup> one. More than 90% of those vaccinated will develop immunity to the hepatitis – B virus. To ensure immunity, it is important for individuals to receive all 3 injections. At this point, it is unclear how long the immunity lasts, so booster shots may be required at some point in the future. The vaccine causes no harm to those who are already immune or those who may be HBV carriers.

You should receive counseling from a health care professional when the vaccination is offered. This discussion will help you determine whether inoculation is necessary. However, the best defense against hepatitis – B is vaccination.

#### What if I decline vaccination?

If you decide to decline vaccinations, you must sign a WAIVER which declines the vaccine series. This WAIVER will remain in your student file. Any time after you initially decline the vaccination series you may opt to take it. If you do receive the vaccine series at a later date, please bring written documentation and inform the Program Director.

By signing this waiver, I acknowledge that I have not had a current Hepatitis – B vaccine series. I also acknowledge, that I have been informed of Hepatitis – B and the dangers of acquiring Hepatitis – B.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_