

Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions

Q: What are CNHS Mandatories?

A: CNHS Mandatories are college requirements that include proof of immunizations, health insurance, CPR, HIPAA/OSHA training, program memberships, etc. that all students need to fulfill to take part in clinical education. Depending on the requirements of your clinical placement site, there may be additional requirements to fulfill such as a physical exam, drug screen, background check or additional PPD test.

Q: How do I submit my documentation?

A: The College of Nursing and Health Sciences partners with an online compliance tracking company called 'CastleBranch' to manage student mandatories. CNHS students submit required records to CastleBranch.com. Benefits associated with this service include secure holding and transfer of personal information, website accessibility 24/7 and lifetime access to personal immunization documents. Once you register and set up your account you will use the same account for the length of time you are in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. Instructions for submitting your program mandatories in CastleBranch will be emailed to you. Note: UVM's Center for Health and Wellbeing will not submit your documents for you. It is your responsibility to bring the CNHS forms with you to your appointments and to submit your completed documents to CastleBranch.com.

Q: What happens if I can't submit my mandatories by the deadline?

A: It is imperative that you plan ahead to ensure that your mandatories are completed by the deadline. If you fail to submit your mandatories by the deadline, your participation in your clinical experience maybe jeopardized.

It is important to give yourself plenty of time to complete these requirements. Please pay attention to email reminders from your program staff and CastleBranch and take action on requests.

CPR Certification

Q: What CPR certifications will you accept?

A: American Heart Association Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers or American Red Cross Professional Rescuer.

Q: What if my CPR certification will expire during my clinical education experience?

A: It is your responsibility to be aware of your CPR certification expiration date. Your CPR certification is required to be valid for your entire clinical education experience. If your CPR certification will expire during your clinical, please renew it BEFORE expiration and submit an updated copy of the front and back of your CPR card or certificate with signature(s) to CastleBranch.

Q: Will you accept the American Red Cross Challenge Exam for my CPR Certification course?

A: No. This is a refresher course and not a certification course.

Q: How do I find out about upcoming CPR classes?

A: CNHS offers AHA BLS CPR courses at least twice per semester. You will receive email notices regarding how to sign up through <http://vtsafetynet.com/> for upcoming CPR course dates.

Q: How do I register for a CPR class?

A: After you receive notification of the course date, you can register for the course through the American Heart Association at the link <http://vtsafetynet.com/> and follow the prompts for registration. The course takes approximately 2.5 hours and requires in-class instruction. There is no on-line portion of the course. The course offered is \$45 and is a substantially discounted cost for UVM students.

HIPAA/OSHA Training

Q: How often do I need to complete HIPAA/OSHA training?

A: You are required to complete *annual* HIPAA and OSHA on-line trainings offered by Evolve e-learning . OSHA training includes courses such as Bloodborne Pathogens, and Personal Protective Equipment. Information regarding these trainings will be emailed to you.

HEPATITIS B VACCINATIONS AND TESTING– READ CAREFULLY

Vaccinations and testing for immunity for Hepatitis B can be a lengthy process because of the time you have to wait between doses and titers. Please do not wait to begin testing for immunity for this requirement.

Q: What is a titer?

A: A titer is a blood test to determine whether a vaccination has provided immunity against the disease. Titer results should be positive to indicate immunity.

Q: What if my first Hepatitis B titer is negative or indeterminate?

A: If you receive a negative or indeterminate Hepatitis B titer result, ask your healthcare provider to revaccinate you with the **Hepatitis B Booster**. One to two months after the booster dose you will need a second titer to test for immunity.

Q: What if my second Hepatitis B titer is still negative or indeterminate after the booster dose?

A: If your second titer is still negative or indeterminate you will need to be revaccinated with the full Hepatitis B vaccine series. The booster is the first dose of the series and two more doses are needed to complete the series. A third titer is again required 1 to 2 months after the final dose to prove immunity.

Timeline for 3-dose Hepatitis B repeat series:

Receive 1st dose (booster);
Receive 2nd titer 1-2 months later;
If 2nd titer negative or indeterminate, receive 2nd dose;

Receive 3rd dose 4 months from 1st dose;
Receive 3rd titer 1-2 months after 3rd dose.

Ask your healthcare provider to document and initial each Hepatitis B dose and titer on the same CNHS Hepatitis B Booster form and submit each action to CastleBranch.

Q: Should I need to repeat the Hepatitis B series, can I receive Heplisav-B, an accelerated series?

A: Yes, you can receive the 2 dose accelerated series as long as you continue with Heplisav-B through the series. Make sure your healthcare provider notes the Heplisav-B on your form. A titer is required 1 to 2 months after the final dose.

Timeline for 2-dose Heplisav-B repeat series:

Receive 1st dose (booster);
Receive 2nd titer 1-2 months later;
If 2nd titer negative or indeterminate, receive 2nd dose;
Receive 3rd titer 1-2 months after 2nd dose.

Ask your healthcare provider to document and initial each Hepatitis B dose and titer on the same CNHS Hepatitis B Booster form and submit each action to CastleBranch.

Q: Can I see different healthcare providers to complete my Hepatitis B series?

A: Yes. If you plan to use multiple healthcare providers to complete your Hepatitis B series, please ensure that you provide your second healthcare provider with a completed form showing your most recent dose. **If Heplisav-B was given for the first dose it must be given for the 2nd dose and documented as such.** Use the same CNHS form when seeing multiple healthcare providers, but make sure each dose is initialed by the healthcare provider giving you that dose and titer. When the series is complete have your provider sign the bottom of the form.

Q: What if my Hepatitis B titers keep showing as negative?

A: If you have completed the booster and remaining doses of the series (or two doses of Heplisav-B) and your titers are still negative, you are considered to be a non-responder. Talk with your healthcare provider about precautions to prevent Hepatitis B infection. Please have your healthcare provider note on the form that you have been advised about precautions to take.

Varicella

Q: How do I know if I need a titer?

If you have two documented doses of the Varicella vaccine you do not need a titer. If you have a history of the disease and have not had two doses of the vaccine, you will need a positive titer to show immunity.

Q: My Varicella titer is indeterminate or negative. What should I do?

A: If your Varicella titer is indeterminate or negative, you are required to have two Varicella vaccinations. After receiving the vaccinations, no further action is needed.

PPD

Q: What is a PPD?

A: It is a Tuberculin Skin Test.

Q: If I have a PPD Skin Test and it is positive, what should I do?

A: *First time positive only:* You will need to be assessed to determine why the skin test is positive. Reasons may include previous BCG vaccine, latent TB (exposed, but not active), or active TB. This will require a symptom review done by your healthcare provider and chest x-ray. You will need to submit a copy of the radiology report, the Symptom Checklist form, and the PPD form signed by your healthcare provider to CastleBranch.

Q: If I have a *history* of a positive PPD, what should I do?

A: Do not get another PPD skin test because this will continue to result as a positive. Instead, ask your healthcare provider to perform a TB symptom review. Bring your TB Symptom Checklist form to your appointment for the healthcare provider to fill out and sign. You will need to submit your Checklist in CastleBranch.

Q: What if I have difficulty getting an appointment with my doctor for my PPD?

A: You often do not need a full office visit appointment for the placement and reading of your PPD. Ask if a nurse can place/read your PPD instead. Walk-in clinics and pharmacies will also provide these services.

Influenza Vaccination

Q: Am I required to get a flu shot?

A: Yes, as a CNHS student you are required to receive an annual influenza vaccination both to protect yourself, and also to protect the patients with whom you come into contact. Influenza vaccinations should be received in **October/November** in order to protect you through the spring.

COVID-19 Vaccination

Q: Am I required to get a COVID-19 vaccination?

A: Yes, you are required to have a complete COVID-19 vaccination OR have a documented health or religious exemption.

COVID-19 Booster Vaccination

Q: Am I required to get a COVID-19 booster vaccination?

A: Yes, you are required to have a COVID-19 booster vaccination OR have a documented health or religious exemption. Booster is due 6 months after the completed COVID-19 vaccination.

Additional Questions

Q: Is my insurance form and card an annual requirement?

A: Yes, each year you are required to submit the form and a copy of your insurance card to CastleBranch even if your information has not changed. You are also required to submit any insurance changes throughout the academic year to CastleBranch.

Q: How will I know when my mandatories have been completed?

A: Is it your responsibility to keep track of the documents that you submit to ensure you have met all requirements. **You will know your mandatories are complete when all document trackers on your CastleBranch account display a green check mark. Take action to complete any requirement they reject.**

It is your responsibility to coordinate and maintain compliance and record keeping. The program will facilitate coordination to clinical sites, but this does not eliminate the need for you to be able to make available complete and updated requirements at any time.

Q: Which requirements need to be done annually?

A: HIPAA/OSHA training, Proof of Health Insurance (copy of your card), the Health Insurance form, PPD test, and the Influenza vaccine are all annual requirements.

Q: Does CNHS cover the cost of my immunization and serology work?

A: No, it is your responsibility to cover the cost. If you visit the UVM's Center for Health and Wellbeing for your immunization and serology work, you can request a receipt and file it along with the claim to your insurance company.

Q: Who do I contact if I have additional questions?

A:

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