BACKGROUND: The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires periodic training regarding transmission of Bloodborne Pathogens and Tuberculosis. Please review the BWH informational pamphlets “Protection for Patients and Health Care Workers” and “Facts you should know about Tuberculosis”, read the following highlighted points, complete and sign this form and return it to your Credentialing Department. **You must complete and return this form in order to be recredentialed.**

**Protection from bloodborne pathogens (HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C)**

- If you are exposed to blood, bloody body fluids or other potentially infectious body fluids, you should *immediately* wash the injury, page the STIK beeper, #3-STIK (37845), report to Occupational Health Services (or the Emergency Department during off-hours), and fill out an incident report. Exposures should be reported immediately so that prophylactic antiviral therapy can be initiated if indicated. **HIV prophylaxis should be started within an hour of the blood exposure if possible.** Also, a Needlestick Consultant is available (beeper 13690) 24 hours a day for counseling and prophylaxis recommendations. Exposure follow-up is confidential and will not be included in your medical records.

- Hepatitis B vaccine is *strongly* recommended for any non-immune healthcare worker with potential exposure to blood. If you have not been vaccinated or have not completed the vaccine series, call Occupational Health Services (732-6034) for an appointment. Hepatitis B vaccine is provided free of charge.

- You must *wash your hands* after patient contact, after removing your gloves, before leaving a laboratory, and before eating. Handwashing is the most effective means of preventing cross-contamination.

- Gloves must be worn whenever you are doing a procedure that might result in contact with blood or body fluids.

- Goggles and masks or full facemasks must be worn whenever you are doing something that might cause splashing/aerosolization of blood/body fluids. Protective equipment for certain procedures is identified in the Infection Control section of Handbook on BICS.

- Detailed information about prevention of exposure to bloodborne pathogens is available in the “BWH Exposure Control Plan” and “Safe Work Practices” in the Infection Control section of Handbook on BICS.

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Isolation Precautions

- Special disease-specific precautions signs are posted on the doors of patients’ rooms when precautions other than Standard Precautions are indicated. Detailed information about precautions required for specific diseases is available in the Infection Control section of Handbook on BICS under “Manual of Precautions”.

- Patients with infections that can be spread through small respiratory droplets such as tuberculosis, measles, chickenpox or disseminated herpes zoster must be in negative air pressure rooms. Only the designated negative air pressure rooms do not recirculate the air within the pod/unit. A keyswitch is located outside the door and must be switched to “negative”. For tuberculosis, N95 respirators or purified air powered respirators (PAPR) must be worn to enter these rooms. **You must be fit tested and medically cleared to wear an N95 respirator.** For fit testing information, call the Department of Environmental Affairs (732-7016).

Occupational Health Service

- All staff are required to be immune to measles, mumps, and rubella either by vaccination or laboratory confirmed antibody titers. If you are not immune to varicella (chickenpox), the varicella vaccine is strongly recommended. Hepatitis B vaccine, measles, mumps, rubella (MMR), varicella, and influenza vaccine are available free of charge. Tuberculosis screening is required annually.

- Prior to working, Occupational Health Services (OHS) must be notified if you have orofacial Herpes simplex lesions, herpetic whitlow (HSV lesions on the hands), chickenpox, Herpes zoster, any unexplained new rash, a severe sore throat, conjunctivitis, tuberculosis, or diarrhea lasting more than 3 days or any other infectious condition.

- Notify OHS if you are not immune to varicella and you have had contact with someone who develops chickenpox. You should also contact OHS if you have been exposed to anyone with pertussis, tuberculosis, or meningococcal disease. Prophylaxis is available from OHS if it is appropriate.

- Staff should not work at BWH if they have a fever of 101 degrees or greater as it may pose a risk to patients and colleagues.

If you would like more information or wish to discuss any of these issues, please call Infection Control Department (732-6785 or 525-2023) or Occupational Health Services at 617-732-6034.

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I have reviewed and understand the above information and all information in the BWH pamphlets “Protection for Patients and Health Care Workers” and “Facts You Should Know About Tuberculosis”.