

# INFORMATION FOR RURAL UNDERGRADUATE SHADOWING IN HEALTHCARE PARTICIPANTS



# OVERVIEW

- The following slides cover policies for:
  - Immunizations, Vaccines and Screenings
  - Dress Code
  - Safety
  - Health Information Security
  - Patient Confidentiality
  - Tobacco Free
- Must be at least 18 years of age to participate
- RUSH program participation requires compliance with ALL policies



# OVERVIEW

- Failure to comply with any of these policies will result in your removal from the RUSH program



# IMMUNIZATIONS

- To be eligible to participate in the RUSH program, you must provide proof of the following:
  - MMR (Measles, Mumps & Rubella)
  - History of Varicella or Varivax (Chicken Pox or Chicken Pox Vaccine)
  - Positive antibody levels will be acceptable
- Tetanus/Tdap Immunization



# VACCINATIONS & SCREENINGS

- Influenza vaccine within the last 12 months
- Negative PPD Tuberculosis skin test within the last 30 days
- Some health care centers require drug-screening urinalysis and/or background check prior to shadowing



# DRESS CODE

- The following are expected with respect to dress code:
  - Appropriate personal hygiene
  - Neat, tidy and clean clothing
  - Professional clothing (e.g. khaki pants, polo-type shirt, below knees skirts)
  - Comfortable closed toe shoes
  - Socks or stockings



# DRESS CODE

- The following are NOT permitted with respect to dress code:
  - Scrubs\*
  - Jeans, shorts, sweatpants, tank tops or bare midriffs
  - Sandals or flip flops
  - Visible body piercings or tattoos

**\*Hospital Scrubs may be provided in certain direct patient care areas**



# SAFETY

- Health care staff have been trained for many safety situations. Therefore, it is critical that you remain with the health care practitioner to which you have been assigned during your shadowing experience
- In the case of any emergency, you must follow your assigned health care practitioner's instructions



# SAFETY

- If you are feeling ill, are coughing or sneezing or have a contagious disease on the days you are scheduled for your shadowing experience, please alert the ICRH staff and the health care practitioner you to whom you have been assigned
- The shadowing experience will be rescheduled for a later date



# SAFETY

- In order to avoid spreading germs in a clinical setting, please practice the following behaviors:
  - Cover your mouth or nose with a tissue if you do need to cough or sneeze and dispose of the tissue in a waste basket
  - If a tissue is unavailable, use the upper sleeve and not your hands
  - Wash hands with warm water and soap or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer after coughing or sneezing



# SAFETY

- All health care facilities have biosafety protocols in place to protect patients and employees
- Any safety instructions given by your assigned health care practitioner must be followed



# SAFETY

- Additionally, RUSH participants will be required to complete all of the modules within the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) “Biosafety protocols involving blood, body fluids, human cells, and human tissues” course
- Instructions for completing CITI training are included in the RUSH application package



# HEALTH INFORMATION SECURITY

- All health care agencies and WVU affiliates are legally required by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) to protect the privacy and security of health information for every patients
- The HIPAA law is applicable to every RUSH student participant, physician, dentist or allied health professional
- RUSH participants must complete the CITI course modules within the Health Information Privacy and Security Course prior to shadowing: 1) Basics of Health Privacy & 2) Health Privacy Issues for Students and Instructors



# HEALTH INFORMATION SECURITY

- Access to patient medical and billing information is privileged to those individuals that have a work related need for that information
- RUSH participants WILL NOT be privileged to this access in will in no way or form try and access patient medical and billing information



# HEALTH INFORMATION SECURITY

- Staff members that are privileged to patient medical and billing information shall in no way share this information with a RUSH participant, including logins and passwords to computer databases
- Staff members are responsible for all activity under their login. Health information databases are routinely audited for security breaches



# PATIENT CONFIDENTIALITY

- There are many regulations to ensure patient confidentiality
- Regulations are only part of the reason to take patient confidentiality seriously
- Patients who do not trust their provider to keep information confidential will likely withhold details that are important for providing appropriate care
- Therefore, patient confidentiality is critical to providing the best possible care for patients



# PATIENT CONFIDENTIALITY

- During your shadowing experience you may encounter patients or patient information in a spoken, written or electronic form. It is important to remember:
  - Patients have a legal right to their confidentiality
  - You will be required to sign a **Rural Shadowing in Healthcare Program Release** Form in order to participate in the RUSH program
  - You will NOT disclose any patient information you have encountered during your shadowing experience to anyone under any circumstance
  - You will NOT discuss people or patients you may see during your shadowing experience with anyone under any circumstance



# PATIENT CONFIDENTIALITY

- Below are guidelines to assist in deciding what information you may share with others about your experience:
  - General information about the department and/or health care center you visited
  - Describe interactions with the staff you met and worked with
  - The types of procedure(s) and healthcare provided



# PATIENT CONFIDENTIALITY

- Do **NOT** share any patient health information
- Do **NOT** tell other people the name or any information about individuals you saw during your shadowing experience
- Please refer to the HIPAA website for any additional questions regarding Health Information Security and Patient Confidentiality [www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy)



# TOBACCO FREE POLICY

- WVU is a tobacco free campus. The tobacco free policy applies to students participating in the RUSH program at any program-associated shadowing site
- This policy covers all tobacco products including cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and all forms of smokeless tobacco



# QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

- If you have any questions or concerns or would like to discuss the RUSH program in more detail, please contact:
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