**Occupational Exposure Control Protocol**

Students are advised that working in a health profession does expose them to the risk of coming into contact with hazardous substances. The COS PTA program complies with all standards, rules, and regulations issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Students should consistently follow all safe work place practices. The following practices are designed to eliminate or reduce your exposure to blood borne pathogens and other hazardous material.

The following standards have been set for the COS PTA program:

1. Students are required to either obtain the Hepatitis B vaccination series or sign a declination statement.
2. Students will be required to pass a test covering universal standard precautions for dealing with blood and other potentially infectious materials.
3. Personal Protective Equipment must be worn when engaged in all activities where exposure is possible.
4. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are maintained in all areas where potentially hazardous chemicals are utilized.
5. Sharps containers and biohazard disposal containers are located in laboratory and clinical areas.
6. First aid stations are available in each laboratory.

Any PTA student who sustains a needle stick or other occupational injury resulting in exposure to blood, bodily fluids, or other hazardous substance should follow the following protocol:

1. Immediately wash the affected area with soap and water.
2. Cover the area with a dressing, if possible.
3. For an ocular exposure, flush thoroughly with water or the eye wash that is available in the first aid station.
4. Inform the instructor immediately.
5. Complete an incident report to be filed in the PTA/Allied Health Division office.
6. It is highly recommended that the student see a healthcare provider who is trained in assessing the risk of the exposure immediately, but certainly within 48 hours.

Recommendations for appropriate healthcare providers can be obtained from the Student Health Center. All expenses related to testing and treatment incurred as a result of a needle stick or other occupational exposure will be the responsibility of the student. Therefore, it is highly recommended that the student acquire and/or maintain a health insurance policy to cover these expenses.

I have read the Occupational Exposure Control Protocol and have been presented with this information prior to entering the clinical setting.

Name/Print ____________________________ Signature ____________________________
Date _________________________________