2.10 Facilities Operations and Maintenance

Purpose

To outline infection control guidelines for the Physical Plant Department

Audience

All Physical Plant Department Personnel

Personnel

- The handwashing policy shall apply to all personnel (see policy: Handwashing for all Hospital Employees).
- Personnel shall comply with the Employee Health Center requirements for their area.
- All personnel shall adhere to the hospital dress code and the dress code of their department.
- Personnel entering a patient's room shall strive to keep their attire free of soilage with the patient's blood, other body fluids or excretions.
- All personnel shall follow the instructions posted on the door of a patient in isolation. Items which shall be removed from the patient's room shall not be placed on surfaces in the room.
- Suspected or known exposure to or acquisition of a communicable disease shall be reported to the Department of Healthcare Epidemiology or the Employee Health Center immediately.
- All cuts and lacerations shall be covered with a waterproof dressing.
- The Universal Precautions policy will be followed for any and all contact with blood or other body fluids.
- Personnel shall wear protective attire when working on the trash, or linen systems, or during emergency repair of possibly contaminated equipment (protective attire: gloves, masks, gowns).

Equipment and Supplies

- When possible, equipment shall be repaired in the department where it is used. If possible, dirty equipment shall be cleaned prior to transport to the Maintenance Area (see policy: Universal Precautions).
- After completion of work, tools contaminated with blood or body fluids shall be wiped with an EPA-registered tuberculocidal disinfectant (see policy: Cleaning and Reprocessing of Patient Care Equipment and Medical Devices).
- When requesting assistance from Maintenance to perform maintenance in an isolated area, the requester shall indicate so when making the initial contact. Maintenance shall make the

appropriate notation on their order.

- Air filters shall be changed or cleaned as required. All schedules shall be documented in the department for review by applicable agencies.
- The utmost care shall be taken to prevent cross-connections and back siphonage of plumbing systems.
- Plumbing and sterilizing fixtures shall be designed and installed so that water inlets are above the uppermost rim of the fixture. All back-flow preventers shall be installed where necessary and maintained to function properly at all times.
- Direct flush valves on toilets and bedpan washers shall be routinely checked and repaired as needed.
- All equipment used to repair waste systems shall be cleaned whenever used by wiping or spraying with a disinfectant solution.
- Regular inspection and repair of walls, floor, and ceilings shall be done in order to maintain a smooth, dry and clean surface.
- Ceiling panels shall always be replaced after the work is completed. If personnel must leave the work area for any extended length of time, even if the work is not complete, the panels shall be replaced.
- All waste shall be disposed of in accordance with city codes and the Galveston County Public Health Department requirements, along with EPA, CDC, and JCAHO Standards.