02.30 UTMB Outpatient Clinics

Purpose

To outline infection control policies for UTMB Outpatient Clinics

Audience

All UTMB employees of UTMB hospitals, clinics, Victory Lakes outpatient specialty care and surgical center, contract workers, volunteers, and students who work in the UTMB Outpatient Clinics

Policy

All UTMB Healthcare Epidemiology (HCE) policies applicable to patient care in the inpatient areas shall be followed in the UTMB outpatient clinics. HCE policies are available on the UTMB employee website under Policies and Procedures.

Personnel

- Personnel shall receive annual Infection Control and Standard Precautions training appropriate to their job description.
- Designated personnel shall receive PPD skin testing annually by the Employee Health Service (EHS) staff or alternatively, by clinic staff trained by EHS to perform testing.
- Employees with direct patient contact shall be vaccinated for measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, and Tdap or shall have positive serologies on file with EHS. See HCE policies addressing each infection.
- Designated employees shall be vaccinated for Hepatitis B or a signed declination form shall be on file with EHS.
- Bloodborne Pathogens Occupational Post-Exposure Chemoprophylaxis packets shall be on site. (Materials Management #68579)
- Personnel shall follow a plan for the prevention of exposure of staff and students to blood and body fluids. See HCE Policy 01.32 Exposure Control Plan/Universal Precautions.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) shall be available and easily located in each exam room and all other patient care areas within the clinic. PPE shall include mask, gown, gloves (S, M, L) and eye protection.

Infectious Diseases Control

- Hand hygiene shall be performed before and after each patient contact. See HCE Policy 01.14 Hand Hygiene for all Healthcare Workers.
- Patients presenting to the clinic setting with an undiagnosed rash shall be immediately isolated in a private room away from the rest of the patients and employees until a diagnosis can be made. If the patient has been found to have a communicable disease and has exposed employees or patients, the Department of Healthcare Epidemiology shall be notified immediately.
- Any patient that presents to the clinic setting with fever, unexplained weight loss, cough, or night sweats shall be masked immediately, placed in a room with the door closed and then evaluated for tuberculosis. HCE shall be notified immediately.

- Community Based Clinics shall maintain documentation of conditions reported to public health authorities.
- Documentation of diseases seen in the Campus Clinics that are reportable to public health authorities shall be maintained by HCE.
- The use and care of toys, dolls, and teaching aids in the outpatient clinics shall be consistent with guidelines for inpatient areas. See HCE Policy 01.36 Toys, Dolls, and Teaching Aids.

General Practice

- Medical and surgical supplies (i.e., patient care items) shall not be stored next to or under sinks. See HCE Policy 01.30 Storage of Dirty, Clean, and Sterile Supplies.
- Delivery of chemotherapy, blood and blood products shall be performed using aseptic technique and Standard Precautions.
- Ambulatory surgical services shall follow the guidelines identified for the inpatient surgical services. See HCE Policy 01.46 Guideline for Prevention of Surgical Site Infections.
- Patient care equipment and medical devices shall be cleaned and reprocessed in accordance with HCE Policy 01.5 Cleaning and Reprocessing of Patient Care Equipment and Medical Devices.
- Sterilizers shall be maintained and monitored according to the guidelines stated in the HCE Policy 01.21 Monitoring of Sterilizers.
- All other HCE policies not mentioned that are applicable to patient care in the inpatient areas shall be followed in the UTMB Clinics.