

Section: UTMB On-line Documentation	2.13 - Policy
Subject: Healthcare Epidemiology Policies and Procedures	2006 - Revised
Topic: Heart Station	1994 - Author

2.13 Heart Station

Purpose To outline infection control guidelines for the Heart Station Department

Audience All healthcare workers in the Heart Station Department

- Personnel**
- Handwashing shall be performed before and after each patient contact and at other times as required (see policy: Handwashing for All Hospital Employees).
 - Personnel shall comply with Employee Health Center guidelines for their area.
 - Eating and drinking shall be confined to designated areas.
 - 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 from patient contact and 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. All guidelines shall be followed. The patient's chart, records, and papers which shall be removed from the room shall not be placed on surfaces in the room of a patient in isolation (see policy: Isolation).
 - Suspected or known exposure to or acquisition of an infectious or 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 (see policy: Universal Precautions).
 - The department shall be notified about patients on isolation by the sending department prior to transport, and a request slip received listing the specific type of isolation.
 - Handwashing shall always be preferred after removal of gloves.
- Equipment and Supplies**
- Clean linen shall be placed on the transport equipment for each patient. Clean linen shall be placed on the bed or stretcher for procedures performed in the department.
 - Transport equipment, beds, or stretchers shall be immediately cleaned with an EPA-registered tuberculocidal (hospital-grade)

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disinfectant if soiled by a patient's blood, body fluids, or excretions.

- Disposable equipment shall never be reused (see policy: Disposable Patient Care Items).
- Clean linen shall be handled according to the linen policy (see policy: Guidelines for Handling Linen).
- All clean and sterile supplies shall be stored on shelves or pallets 8-10" off the floor. Clean and sterile supplies shall be dust-free.
- There shall be no overflow of linen hampers or trash receptacles.
- All equipment which comes in direct contact with the patient shall be disinfected or sterilized prior to reuse (e.g., EKG electrodes and other accessories).
- Isolation supplies shall be available at all times.
- The area shall receive at least a daily cleaning of floors and horizontal surfaces.
- Equipment used for emergency care shall be covered to prevent contamination by dust. Resuscitation bags shall be disposable or terminally cleaned by sterilization or high-level disinfection.