

INFECTION CONTROL

PURPOSE

Standard procedures to reduce the spread of infection help assure the safety of the staff and patients.

POLICY

All sleep staff will follow Universal Precautions and Bloodborne Pathogen Standards for contact with all patients.

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 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 all patient care areas within the Sleep Disorder Center. PPE shall include mask, gown, gloves (S, M, L) and eye protection.

PROCEDURE

Technicians/ Therapists of the Sleep Disorder Center must abide by the following regulations to ensure adequate infection control:

- Wash hands both before and after contact with a patient.
 - Gloves should be worn with all patient contact.
 - The head boxes, tubes of paste, alcohol bottles, tape measures, marking pencils, and hairclips should all be wiped down thoroughly using a disinfectant cloth.
 - Electrodes should have paste removed with a disinfectant cloth.
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- Gloves should be worn when cleaning items that have come in direct contact with patients.

Testing/Rescheduling Patients Due to Respiratory Isolation or Illness

The Sleep Disorder Center is not designed to protect non-isolation patients from those in respiratory isolation for serious illnesses transmitted by airborne droplet nuclei (i.e. Acid Fast Bacillus). At any given time there may be several non-isolation patients in the Sleep Disorder Center that are being tested.

After confirming that a patient is in respiratory isolation, Program Manager will contact the requesting physician to notify him/her of the Sleep Disorder Center's policy. Once the patient is removed from respiratory isolation, then the sleep study will be performed.

Patients who fall ill prior to their sleep study (i.e. cold, flu) should reschedule the sleep study so that an accurate test can be performed. Patients are encouraged to call to reschedule as soon as possible.