

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY MANAGEMENT

PURPOSE

To minimize or eliminate the transmission and spread of infection to assure the safety of staff and patients. To educate employees about a system of engineering and work practice controls designed to reduce the risk of transmission of microorganisms/pathogens.

POLICY

The sleep facility shall establish a system of engineering and work practice controls designed to reduce the risk of organization-acquired or community-acquired infections and/or communicable diseases.

Universal precautions: An approach to infection control to treat all human blood and certain human body fluids as if they were known to be infectious for HIV, HBV and other blood-borne pathogens.

Blood-borne pathogens standards: An approach to protect staff that may have been exposed to pathogenic microorganisms present in blood through skin, eye, mucous membrane or through needle stick resultant from the employee's duties or responsibilities.

PROCEDURE

- 1.0** All employees are required to wash their hands thoroughly:
 - 1.1 Before and after patient care/service;
 - 1.2 After using toilet facilities; and
 - 1.3 After removing/handling contaminated equipment;
- 2.0** Personal protective equipment (PPE) will be made available to all staff.
- 3.0** PPE provided may include but not be limited to the following:
 - 3.1 Gloves
 - 3.1.1 Disposable and sized to fit the user
 - 3.1.2 Hypoallergenic gloves available as needed
 - 3.2 Protective body clothing (if applicable)
 - 3.2.1 Aprons (required for low to medium risk situations)
 - 3.2.2 Long-sleeved gowns (required for medium to high risk situations)
 - 3.3 Eye protection (eye glasses with shields, goggles, or face shield) provides eye protection against direct liquid splashes.
 - 3.4 CPR shields are used to provide a barrier against contact with an individual's body fluids while providing emergency CPR. All CPR shields must cover the mouth and nose of the patient and provide a one way valve for administering resuscitative breaths.
 - 3.5 Hand cleansers/or antimicrobial soap.

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- 4.0** All PPE should immediately be removed (as soon as possible) when they are soiled with blood or other infectious materials and placed in an appropriate labeled container for proper disposal.
- 5.0** Employees with an infection (i.e. respiratory, flu, or other virus) and who are providing testing/care to an immuno-suppressed patient must wear a mask.
- 5.1 Employees with an upper respiratory infection (or any other airborne or contact infection) will: wash hands with soap and water frequently, disinfect work area (e.g., phones, keyboards and work surfaces) daily; limit close contact and not share workstations with fellow staff; notify supervisor of the infection.
- 5.2 Gloves are available and can be used during the hook-up procedures and/or contact with a patient:
- 5.2.1 When touching blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions and other contaminated objects;
- 5.2.2 If patients with a respiratory infection or virus arriving for a study are not rescheduled.
- 6.0** Equipment will be cleaned as per the manufacturer's guidelines; see additional instructions in the equipment maintenance policy.
- 7.0** Universal precautions:
- 7.1 All employees should routinely use appropriate barrier precautions (PPE) such as gloves, masks, aprons or face shields to prevent contact with blood or bodily fluids, including:
- 7.1.1 Saliva, urine, tears, sweat, vomit, sputum, feces, nasal secretions.
- 8.0** Blood-borne pathogens standard:
- 8.1 All employees should routinely use appropriate barrier precautions (PPE) when in contact to blood or body fluids.
- 8.2 Be careful to wash hands and skin immediately upon contact with the blood or body fluids.
- 8.3 Handle all sharp instruments carefully to prevent needle stick.
- 8.4 If a needle stick occurs or blood or other bodily fluids get in contact with skin or eyes, immediately flood the exposed area with water, clean with soap and water or other disinfectant. Immediately report the incident to your supervisor, seek medical attention and complete an unusual occurrence report.
- 9.0** Eye wash stations will be available to flush eyes with water or saline post-exposure of blood or other body liquids. If contacts are worn, remove immediately upon contact, flush, and disinfect prior to placing them back in the eye of the user.