

Exposure Control Plan: Tennessee Department of Children's Services

TR-0354 21 Revised March, 2001

ATTACHMENT C UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS Blood and Body Fluids Infection Control Procedures

Universal blood and body fluid precautions should be used for ALL patients whenever there is a potential for exposure to blood or other body fluids, secretions, excretions and tissues. Be familiar with the infection control procedures within your department. Practice universal blood and body fluid precautions on all patients for your own protection.

NEEDLES AND SHARP INSTRUMENTS - The greater risk of exposure to HBV and HIV is through needle sticks and cuts with sharp instruments. Never break, bend or recap a used needle or other instrument. Dispose of needles and sharp instruments in puncture-resistant containers designed for their disposal. Handle all sharp instruments and broken glass with extreme caution. Immediately report any cut or needlestick to your immediate supervisor.

WASH HANDS - Routine handwashing is a basic infection control procedure. Hands always should be washed before and after contact with a patient. Wash hands with soap and a steady stream of water for at least 10 seconds.

WEAR GLOVES - Latex gloves should always be worn whenever patients are examined and you may be exposed to blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions, tissues or mucous membranes. Wash hands before putting on gloves and after gloves have been removed. Gloves should be used when cleaning soiled instruments, surfaces, and when handling linens soiled with blood or body fluids, or when cleaning up spills of blood or body fluids. Housekeeping personnel may use standard rubber gloves.

WEAR GOWNS - Protective gowns or aprons should be worn when there is a potential for blood or body fluid splatters or spraying. Example, arterial punctures, dental or orthopedic drilling, intubation, inserting arterial lines, endoscopies, etc.

WEAR GOGGLES - Protective eyewear, such as goggles, should be worn when there is a potential for blood or body fluid splatters or spraying. Example: arterial punctures, dental or orthopedic drilling, intubation, inserting arterial lines, endoscopies, etc.

WEAR MASKS - Generally, masks are not necessary when in casual contact with patients, but should be used when there is a potential for blood or body fluid splatters or spraying. HIV and HBV are blood borne and are not spread through the air. Masks also should be worn if the patient is on respiratory isolation for his or her protection. See

examples under WEAR GOWNS section.

CLEAN UP SPILLS - Spilled or splattered blood and body fluids should be cleaned up immediately. Use of a daily fresh solution of bleach and water (1:10 dilution) is adequate and gloves should be worn. Some instruments require special disinfectants. Check departmental policy.

LAUNDRY - Standard hospital laundry detergents and wash cycles are sufficient for linens contaminated with blood or body fluids. Handle linens and patient clothing with gloved hands when they are soiled with blood or other body fluids, secretions and excretions. Check departmental policy regarding bagging and labeling of patient laundry.

DISHES AND UTENSILS - Standard hospital dishwashing is sufficient and special handling is not indicated. Gloves should be worn only if dishes and utensils are visibly soiled with blood or body fluids. Gloves are not indicated when serving patient food.

HOUSEKEEPING - Standard hospital housekeeping procedures are adequate for routine, daily cleaning of patient rooms. Routine cleanup of patient rooms following discharge or transfer is adequate unless there is visible contamination with blood or body fluids.

CASUAL CONTACT - Casual contact with patients does not pose a risk of infection with HIV or HBV. Handshaking, touching, talking, visiting and other casual contact does not require any special infection control procedures since HIV and HBV are not spread through the air. Always report to your immediate supervisor whenever you believe you have been exposed to HIV or HBV through contact with a patient's blood or body fluids. Your department has adopted infection control measures with which you should be familiar and should use routinely as indicated for all patients.

PROTECT YOURSELF

ALWAYS OBSERVE UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS