

UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS (STANDARD)

NOTE: UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS ARE MENTIONED IN THIS MANUAL FOR REFERENCE AND GUIDELINES ONLY. THE FACILITY SHOULD ESTABLISH SPECIFIC, DETAILED GENERAL INFECTION CONTROL GUIDELINES PROCEDURES FOLLOWING THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC) GUIDELINES. FACILITY GENERAL INFECTION CONTROL GUIDELINES POLICIES AND PROCEDURES SHOULD BE UPDATED TO REFLECT THE MOST CURRENT CDC RECOMMENDATIONS.

PURPOSE:

To follow the most current recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control regarding:

BODY FLUIDS TO WHICH UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS APPLY:

1. Blood.
2. Body fluids containing visible blood.
3. Semen.
4. Vaginal secretion.
5. Tissue.
6. Cerebrospinal fluid.
7. Synovial fluid.
8. Pleural fluid.
9. Peritoneal fluid.
10. Pericardial fluid.
11. Amniotic fluid.

UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS DO NOT APPLY UNLESS VISIBLE BLOOD IS PRESENT:

1. Feces.
2. Nasal secretions.
3. Sputum.
4. Sweat.
5. Tears.
6. Urine.
7. Vomitus.
8. Saliva – universal precautions do not apply to saliva. General infection control procedures are already in existence (including the use of gloves for digital examination of mucous membranes and endotracheal suctioning). (Hand washing after exposure to saliva should be observed.)

PROTECTIVE BARRIERS:

UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS ARE TO SUPPLEMENT RATHER THAN REPLACE INFECTION CONTROL PROCEDURES SUCH AS HAND WASHING AND THE USE OF GLOVES TO PREVENT CROSS-MICROBIAL CONTAMINATION OF HANDS. IT IS NOT PRACTICAL TO SPECIFY THE TYPES OF BARRIERS NEEDED FOR EVERY POSSIBLE

SITUATION; JUDGMENT MUST BE EXERCISED. COMMON PROTECTIVE BARRIERS ARE:

1. Gloves – if contact with visible blood is probable.
 - A. Gloves are to be used for phlebotomy.
 - B. Gloves are to be used for Glucometer or Accucheck testing.
 - C. Examination gloves must be used for procedures involving contact with mucous membranes, unless otherwise indicated.
 - D. General purpose utility gloves must be used for housekeeping chores involving potential blood contact and for instrument cleaning and decontamination procedures. Utility gloves may be decontaminated and reused but should be discarded if they are peeling, cracked, discolored or if they have punctures, tears or other evidence of deterioration.
 - E. Gloves must be changed between resident contacts.
2. Gowns – if contamination with visible blood is probable.
3. Masks – if possibility of contact with visible blood.
4. Protective eyewear – if possibility of contact with visible blood.

Immediate and thorough washing of hands and other skin surfaces that come in contact with **VISIBLE BLOOD, BODY FLUIDS CONTAINING VISIBLE BLOOD, OR OTHER BODY FLUIDS TO WHICH UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS APPLY** must be observed.

WASTE MANAGEMENT:

Infectious waste is handled and stored according to facility policy.