

# Infection Prevention Review



## Handwashing

- Healthcare associated infections are responsible for approximately 80,000 deaths annually in the U.S; transmission of these pathogens most commonly occurs via contaminated hands of healthcare workers.
- Optimal efficacy is obtained after one applies enough soap and/or sanitizer to cover the hands and fingers followed by a vigorous 20 second rub/scrub.
- Appropriate hand hygiene includes washing and/or sanitizing hands:
  - Upon entering and exiting a patient room
  - After handling potentially contaminated items
  - After removal of gloves
  - Before eating
  - After going to the bathroom
  - *MUST wash hands upon entering and exiting a patient room even if nothing was touched*
  - *MUST use soap and water (not hand sanitizer) if patient is diagnosed with C. difficile*

## OSHA Blood-borne Pathogen Standards

- **Defined:** The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has issued regulations based on the premise that any patient or person may be unknowingly infected with blood- borne pathogens such as hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) .

## Blood-borne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan:

- **Goals:** to provide employees with a safe workplace, to minimize blood- borne pathogen exposures and to encourage employees to follow Standard Precautions.
- Goals are accomplished by employing various work practice and engineering controls, personal protective equipment, and regulating infectious waste.

Work-Practice Controls	Engineering controls	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
Work-practice controls reduce the chance of employees being exposed to blood and other potentially infectious materials by altering the way they do their work.	Engineering controls use available technology and devices to isolate or remove hazards from employees and help prevent exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials. Healthcare workers are to take the opportunity to regularly evaluate engineering controls and suggest changes to their on-site safety coordinator.	Personal protective equipment (PPE) is specialized clothing or equipment worn by employees to protect against exposure to blood or other potentially infectious material. General work clothes (i.e. uniforms) are not considered PPE. PPE does not replace using engineering and work-practice controls.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate Handwashing</li> <li>• Separate refrigerators for food, medication, and specimens</li> <li>• Using safety needles and sharps</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Needleless IV systems</li> <li>• Plexiglass shields for hoppers</li> <li>• Eyewash stations</li> <li>• Pneumatic tube systems</li> <li>• Safety needles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gloves</li> <li>• Gowns/aprons</li> <li>• Shoe covers/boots</li> <li>• Impervious lab coats</li> <li>• Face shields, masks &amp; eyewear</li> <li>• Safety goggles</li> </ul>

## Employee Responsibilities for Personal Protective Equipment

- Know where PPE is located in your area
- Remove PPE prior to leaving your work area; place in appropriate container
- Immediately remove any PPE contaminated by blood and /or other potentially infectious materials
- If your scrub is contaminated, change into a clean, dry scrub uniform and place soiled uniform in a clear plastic bag

**Infectious Waste Disposal:** In accordance with OSHA, EPA, Department of Health and Joint Commission guidelines, policies and procedures have been implemented to assure the health and safety of our employees, staff, community and environment.

Regular Waste (White bag)	Sharps/Needles (Red Container)	Pathological (Red Bag)	Chemotherapeutic (Yellow Container)	Infections (Red Plastic Liners)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food, food containers</li> <li>Gloves, gowns, masks unsoiled by body fluids*</li> <li>Non-glass medication vials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Needles</li> <li>Pipettes</li> <li>Syringes</li> <li>Lancets</li> <li>Scalpel blades</li> <li>Teeth</li> <li>Scissors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blood/blood soiled items</li> <li>Drainage tubing with visible blood</li> <li>Items soiled with body fluids* covered by Standard Precautions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Empty chemo bags</li> <li>Used chemo needles/sharps</li> <li>Used chemo tubing</li> <li>Other chemo waste</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blood/blood soiled items</li> <li>Drainage tubing with visible blood</li> <li>Items soiled with body fluids* covered by Standard Precautions</li> </ul>

\*Blood/Body fluids covered by Standard Precautions Include: Blood, body fluids and tissue, cerebrospinal fluid, peritoneal fluid, pericardial fluid, semen & vaginal fluid, saliva in dental procedures, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, amniotic fluid. If blood is visible, the following additional fluids as well: feces, nasal secretions, sputum, sweat, tears, vomitus and urine.



### Biohazard Labeling

- All regulated waste (liquid/semi-liquid blood or other potentially infectious body fluids) must be labeled with a biohazard label or color-coded red so that employees can accurately identify the hazard.
- Clearly label any equipment that cannot be cleaned or any area on a piece of equipment that was not decontaminated.

Biohazard Label Required	Biohazard Label NOT Required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any container of regulated waste</li> <li>Sharps disposal containers</li> <li>Refrigerators/freezers used for blood/body fluids</li> <li>Containers used to transport blood/body fluids</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blood/blood products for transfusion which have been screened for blood-borne pathogens</li> <li>Individual containers of blood/body fluids that are in another labeled container</li> <li>Soiled laundry bags/containers</li> <li>Decontaminated regulated waste that is marked with proof of decontamination</li> </ul>

### Clean Work Environment

- Promptly clean up small blood/body fluid spills with a “mess kit”
- Contact Environmental Services to handle large blood/body fluid spills
- Clean and decontaminate all equipment and surfaces that come in contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials
- Immediately discard contaminated sharps into a puncture resistant, leakproof, resealable, labeled container