

		Policy Number	1505
		Original Date	12/23/1996
	Department: Infection Control Plan	Revised Date	03/01/2016
Handling of Potentially Infectious Specimens			

POLICY:

All employees shall adhere to Universal Precautions to guard against infection by blood borne pathogens when collecting or packaging biological specimens.

When collecting or assisting with the collection of biological specimens, employees shall comply with the requirements for the use of personal protective equipment.

PROCEDURE:

The following procedures shall be used when collecting or packaging biological specimens, blood, or other potentially infectious materials.

1. Use the proper collection devices.
2. Use Personal Protective Equipment as necessary against splashing, spraying, spattering and generation of droplets of blood or other potentially infectious materials.
3. Secure the specimen in an approved leak-proof puncture resistant container.
4. Seal the container immediately in the area in which the sample was taken and affix patient identification labels.
5. Clean obvious soiling from the outside of the container using detergent germicide.
6. Neutralize blood spills with appropriate disinfectant before cleaning them up.
7. If the specimen is transported out of Montana Mental Health Nursing Care Center, a bio-hazard warning label shall be visible on the transportation container.