



MONTANA STATE HOSPITAL POLICY AND PROCEDURE

STANDARD PRECAUTIONS

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Policy #: IC-15

Page 1 of 3

I. PURPOSE: It is the intent of this facility that: 1) all patient blood, body fluids, excretions and secretions other than sweat will be considered potentially infectious; 2) Standard Precautions will be used for all patients; 3) Standard Precautions are also intended to protect patients by ensuring that healthcare personnel do not carry infectious agents to patients on their hands or via equipment used during patient care.

II. POLICY: All MSH staff will practice Standard Precautions to protect themselves and others.

III. DEFINITIONS:

Standard Precautions - Precautions based upon the risk presented by all contact with blood or body fluids, irrespective of known diagnosis or lifestyle factors of patients or other staff.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A. All staff is responsible for understanding the principles of Standard Precautions.
- B. Infection Preventionist will provide educational materials and training in conjunction with Staff Development Service for all staff, visitors, and volunteers as needed.
- C. Hospital administration is responsible for supporting the Infection Preventionist, policies, and regulations of OSHA, and recommendations of the CDC.

V. PROCEDURE:

- A. Gloves should be worn whenever exposure to the following is planned or anticipated;
 - blood/blood products/body fluids with visible blood, excretions, secretions
 - urine
 - feces
 - saliva
 - mucous membranes
 - wound drainage
 - drainage tubes

- non-intact skin
 - amniotic, cerebral spinal, pericardial, pleural, peritoneal, synovial fluids
- B. Masks and eyewear (or face shields) should be worn during procedures that are likely to generate droplets/splashing of blood/body fluids. This will protect the mucous membranes of the eyes, nose and mouth.
- C. Gowns/fluid resistant aprons should be worn when there is potential for soiling clothing with blood/body fluids.
- D. Consider a private room when patient hygiene is poor or in cases where blood/body fluids cannot be contained. Consult with Licensed Independent Practitioner (LIP)/Infection Preventionist regarding patient placement when a private room is not available.
- E. For hand washing/ hand hygiene refer to procedure on hand washing/hand hygiene. Proper hand washing can help to prevent the transmission of microorganisms.
- F. Resuscitation equipment mouthpieces or other ventilation devices should be available as alternatives for mouth to mouth resuscitation.
- G. Safety engineered sharps should be used, and used sharps should be placed in an appropriately labeled puncture resistant container.
- H. Lab specimens should be placed in a container which prevents leakage during collection, handling, processing, storage, transport, or shipping. If outside contamination of the primary container occurs, it should be placed within a second container or biohazard bag.
- I. Spills of blood or other body fluids should be removed and the area decontaminated appropriately. Gloves should be worn during cleaning and decontamination. The manufacturer's directions will be followed for use of the product in cleaning and decontaminating spills. The disinfectant should be EPA registered and have kill data against Hepatitis B and HIV or should be tuberculocidal.
- J. Soiled linen should be handled as little as possible. Gloves should be worn to handle linen wet with blood or body fluids. Linen will be double bagged by first placing the linen in a dissolvable bag and then placing that bag in a clear bag. The double bag is then labeled with a red biohazard sticker and is then placed in the appropriate laundry receptacle for linens, towels, and other washable items
- K. Waste should be handled as though all body fluids are infectious. Potentially contaminated articles are stored and disposed of in appropriate containers.

Biohazardous waste should be red bagged. Foot operated trash containers are located in all exam rooms and should be lined with red biohazard bags. These bags should be checked daily and disposed of as needed. Biohazardous waste will be placed in biohazardous waste bags and placed in the infectious waste collecting receptacles located in soiled utility areas. Teamsters routinely deliver this waste to the heating plant for sterilization.

- L. All patient care equipment soiled with blood, body fluids, secretions, or excretions shall be handled in a manner which will prevent skin and mucous membrane exposures. Single use, disposable items must be disposed of properly. Make sure reusable equipment has been cleaned and reprocessed appropriately prior to subsequent use.
- M. Ensure the facility has adequate procedures and that they are followed for the routine cleaning of all surfaces including beds, bed rails, bedside equipment, and other frequently touched surfaces.
- N. Avoid injuries if at all possible when using needles, scalpels, and other sharp instruments. Never recap needles. Place all contaminated needles, syringes, scalpel blades and other sharp items in designated puncture resistant containers. These containers should be located as closely as possible to the area where the items are used.
- O. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is provided to all employees. Each employee is responsible for knowing where the equipment is kept in the department.

The type of protective barrier(s) should be appropriate for the procedure performed and the type of exposure anticipated.

PPE available includes gloves, gowns or aprons, masks and eye protection (or face shields), and resuscitation devices.

- P. The following measures to contain respiratory secretions are recommended for all individuals with signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection.
 - Cover the nose/mouth with a tissue or the antecubital area when coughing or sneezing.
 - Use tissues to contain respiratory secretions and dispose of them in the nearest waste receptacle after use.
 - Perform hand hygiene (e.g., hand washing with non-antimicrobial soap and water, alcohol-based hand rub, or antiseptic hand wash) after having contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects/materials.
 - Housekeeping will ensure availability of materials to adhere to Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette in waiting areas for patients and visitors.

