

NORTHERN NEVADA ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (NNAMHS)
POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: STANDARD (UNIVERSAL) PRECAUTIONS

NUMBER: NN-IC-07

Page 1 of 5

ORIGINAL DATE: 04/08/92

REVIEW/REVISE DATE: 09/23/92, 06/15/95, 11/05/98, 05/17/01, 05/06/04, 05/03/07, 3/18/10,
12/22/10, 12/5/13

APPROVAL Cody L. Phinney, Agency Director

I. PURPOSE

To provide a uniform approach to infection control by utilizing the concept of standard precautions.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of NNAMHS shall follow and observe standard precautions to prevent the transmission of bloodborne diseases by contact with blood, bodily fluids or other potentially infectious materials.

III. REFERENCES

NNAMHS Policy NN-IC-06 Hand Hygiene
NNAMHS Policy NN-IC-15 Hazardous Waste Handling and Disposal
NNAMHS Policy NN-IC-19 Post Exposure-Evaluation and Follow-up
NNAMHS Policy NN-HR-19 Employee Health Management of Latex-Sensitive Employees
Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Standards 29CFR 1910.1030 Bloodborne Pathogens (December, 2008)
CDC Guidelines for Infection Control in Hospital Personnel (1983)

IV. DEFINITIONS

1. Standard (Universal) Precautions: all human blood and all human body fluids are treated as if known to be infectious for HIV, HBV, and other bloodborne pathogens.
2. HIV: Human Immune Deficiency Virus.
3. HBV: Hepatitis B Virus.
4. Bloodborne Pathogens: Pathogenic micro-organisms that are present in human blood and can cause disease in humans.
5. Hand washing facilities: Facilities providing an adequate supply of running potable water, soap and single use towels or hot air drying machine.
6. Personal Protective Equipment: Specialized clothing or equipment worn by an employee for protection against a hazard. General work clothes (e.g. uniforms, pants, shirts, or blouses) not intended to function as protection against a hazard is not considered to be personal protective equipment.

V. PROCEDURE

1. Blood/Body Fluid Precautions: These precautions are designed to prevent infections that are transmitted by direct or indirect contact with infective blood or body fluids.
 - a. All consumers must be treated as potentially infectious.
 - b. Hand washing is the single most effective means to prevent the risk of infection.
 - c. Hand hygiene refers to both washing with plain or anti-bacterial soap and water and to the use of alcohol gel to decontaminate hands. When hands are not visibly soiled, alcohol gel is the preferred method of hand hygiene when providing health care to consumers.
 - i. Hand washing facilities are readily accessible to employees and antiseptic hand cleaners are provided.
2. Protective Barrier Precautions
 - a. Gloves will be worn when it can be reasonably anticipated that the employee may have hand/skin contact with blood, other potentially infectious materials, mucous membranes, non-intact skin, and when handling or touching contaminated items or surfaces.
 - b. Gloves are to be changed after contact with each consumer and are to be removed immediately after contact with potentially infectious material. Hands are to be washed immediately after gloves are removed or when gloves are changed.
 - i. Disposable, single-use gloves are to be used and shall be readily accessible.

- ii. Hands and other skin surfaces must be washed immediately and thoroughly if contamination with blood or body fluids should occur, and before taking care of another consumer.
 - iii. Any exposure incident must be reported immediately to the supervisor. The Post- Exposure Evaluation and Follow-up Procedure (NN-IC-19) will be started immediately.
 - iv. Gloves are to be used at all times whenever the employee has cuts, scratches, or other breaks in his/her skin.
 - v. Visibly contaminated gloves are to be placed in the infectious waste containers for proper disposal.
 - vi. Hypoallergenic gloves are accessible for those employees who are allergic to the gloves normally provided.
 - * Hypoallergenic latex gloves do not reduce the risk of latex allergy, but they may reduce reactions to chemical additives in the latex.
 - * Employees who experience latex allergies/sensitivities are assessed by the Employee Health Physician.
 - * Education regarding latex sensitivity is available from Employee Health.
 - vii. Gloves are considered “appropriate” only if they do not permit blood or other potentially infectious materials to pass through or reach the employee's skin.
- c. Gowns, aprons, and other protective body clothing such as lab coats, clinic jackets, or similar other garments are to be worn if soiling of clothing with blood or body fluids is likely, depending on the task or procedure being done.
- i. The gowns, aprons, or other protective body clothing will be considered appropriate only if they do not permit blood or other potentially infectious materials to pass through, or reach the employee's work clothes, street clothes, and undergarments.
 - ii. If a garment(s) is penetrated by blood or other potentially infectious materials, the garment(s) is to be removed immediately or as soon as possible.
 - iii. All personal protective equipment is to be removed prior to leaving the work area.
 - iv. The personal protective equipment will be placed in an appropriately designated area or container, such as a locker.

- d. Masks, Eye Protection and Face Shields:
 - i. Masks in combination with eye protective devices, such as goggles or glasses with side shields, or chin length face shields, shall be worn whenever splashes, spray, spatter or droplets of blood, or other potentially infectious materials may be generated, and eye, nose or mouth contamination can be reasonably anticipated.
 - ii. The masks, eye protection, and face shields will be considered “appropriate” only if they do not permit blood or other potentially infectious materials to reach the eye or mucous membrane of the nose and mouth.
 - iii. The personal protective equipment is to be stored in an appropriate designated area or container.
 - * Personal protective equipment is cleaned, replaced, or repaired as needed to maintain its effectiveness.
3. Evaluating Risk: the risk of an exposure can be evaluated on the basis of the following factors:
 - a. The type of body fluid with which the employee may come in contact with: blood, semen, saliva and sputum are of greater concern than urine.
 - b. The volume of blood or body fluid likely to be encountered:
 - i. A surgical procedure will be bloodier than a small laceration.
 - ii. A spurting wound will be bloodier than a small laceration.
 - iii. Probability of an exposure taking place.
 - c. Drawing blood will more likely lead to an exposure to blood than will performing a physical assessment, taking a blood pressure, taking a temperature, or weighing a consumer.
 - d. Probable rate of exposure:
 - i. A needle stick injury would be of greater concern than contact with saliva.
 - ii. Open cuts; scratches and abrasions on one's hands without glove protection would be of greater concern with blood and body fluids than contact with saliva.
 - iii. Routes of exposure means a specific eye, mouth, other mucous membrane, non-intact skin, or parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials.

4. Precautions to Observe:
 - a. Know procedures for the proper disposal of contaminated items, such as needles, syringes, linens, and dressings.
 - b. Plan the task you are performing so that you may anticipate any complications or needs beforehand.
 - c. Read and observe all warning signs and labels; be familiar with their meaning.
 - d. Be familiar with the personal protective equipment and know its limitations.
 - e. Use all self-sheathing devices that are available for needle and syringe protection.
 - f. An employee or contracted staff member who has an exudative or weeping lesion must keep the wound dry, clean and covered while working.
 - i. The covering must be approved by Employee Health or Infection Control staff to assure it provides a protective barrier.
 - g. Use the protective equipment provided and use it only for the purpose for which it was manufactured.
5. Cleaning Disinfection and Decontamination of Blood/Body Spills
 - a. Gloves and appropriate personal protective equipment must be worn while cleaning any spill of blood or body fluid.
 - b. Spills must be removed with a disposable towel and the area cleaned with an Infection Control Committee approved product. Most areas at this agency have small pre-boxed clean up kits containing all of the necessary items.
 - c. All soiled, disposable towels used to clean the spill must be placed in a red infectious waste heavy-duty plastic bag, secured with a twist tie and disposed of in the infectious waste container located in the medication room on each unit. If too large for the container, the towels must be taken to the infectious waste disposal area in Bldg. #25.
 - d. Notify housekeeping by phone or voice-mail of all spills to determine the need for follow-up cleaning.