

Chapter 3 - General Institution

AP 3555 HIV/AIDS

“Universal Precautions” are procedures and protocols used in all health care situations but especially with individuals known to be carrying a specific virus such as HIV or the virus causing Hepatitis B.

The following "Universal Precautions" will be used in care of all individuals, but especially in emergency-care settings in which the risk of blood and body fluids exposure is increased and the infection status of the person is usually unknown. Body fluids will include all human products which are wet, such as urine, blood, saliva, vomit, stool, etc.

- A. Gloves will be worn when touching blood and body fluids, mucous membranes, or non-intact skin. Gloves will be changed when torn and after contact with each person or situation.
- B. Hands and other skin surfaces will be washed immediately and thoroughly if contaminated with blood or other body fluids. Hands will also be washed immediately after gloves are removed.
- C. Non-permeable protective clothing should be worn if blood/body fluid splattering is likely, such as emergency situations.
- D. Masks and protective goggles will be worn if spraying or splattering of blood or body fluids are likely to occur.
- E. Mouthpieces, resuscitation bags, or other ventilation devices should be strategically located and available for use in areas where the need for resuscitation is likely to occur.
- F. Needles and syringes will be handled in such a manner to prevent accidental cuts or punctures. These objects should not be bent, broken, reinserted into their original sheath or unnecessarily handled. They shall be discarded intact immediately after use into a readily accessible disposable rigid puncture proof container.
- G. All puncture wounds with blood or body fluids must be reported immediately to your supervisor.
- H. A disinfectant solution such as a 1:10 dilution of bleach, shall be used to clean up any blood/body fluid spills. Gloves should be worn while cleaning up.
- I. Persons who have open lesions or oozing skin conditions should refrain from all direct contact with other individuals and from handling equipment which would be touched by others until the condition is resolved.

- J. Pregnant women are not known to be at greater risk of contacting HIV infection than women who are not pregnant. If a woman develops HIV infection during pregnancy, the infant is at risk of infection. Because of this risk, pregnant women should strictly adhere to precautions to minimize the risk of HIV transmission.
- K. Specific precautions shall be developed by each area. A copy of these precautions shall be available in each area.

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