

SECTION 7B: PREVENTION EDUCATION AND CLINICAL SAFETY	POLICY: 7B.2
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PURPOSE:

To provide guidelines for interactions between patients and healthcare providers to prevent the transmission of infections agents associated with healthcare delivery.

POLICY:

- Standard Precautions are designed for care of all patients, regardless of diagnosis or presumed infection status, to reduce the risk of transmission from both recognized and unrecognized sources of infection.
- Standard Precautions combine the features of universal precautions and body substance isolation. Standard Precautions apply to the following:
 - Blood
 - All body fluids, secretions and excretions, except sweat, whether or not they contain visible blood
 - Non-intact skin
 - Mucous membranes
- Standard Precautions include:
 - Hand Hygiene
 - Personal Protective Equipment:
 - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is used to protect staff from contact with infectious agents, and to prevent staff from carrying these infectious agents from patient to patient.
 - Gloves:
 - To be worn when touching blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions, mucous membranes, non-intact skin and other contaminated items, i.e., equipment. Gloves do **NOT** take the place of hand hygiene. Hands are to be washed after removing gloves.
 - Gloves should be changed between tasks and procedures

Policies & Procedures



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- Mouth, Nose, Eye Protection:
 - Masks/face shields according to the need anticipated by the task performed, to protect the mucous membranes of the nose and mouth during procedures and patient-care activities that are likely to generate splashes or sprays of blood, body fluids, secretions and excretions
- Safe Injection Practices:
 - The following recommendations apply to the use of needles, and cannulas that replace needles, and, where applicable intravenous delivery systems:
 - Use aseptic technique to avoid contamination of sterile injection equipment.
 - Do not administer medications from a syringe to multiple patients, even if the needle or cannula on the syringe is changed. Needles, cannulae and syringes are sterile, single-use items; they should not be reused for another patient nor to access a medication or solution that might be used for a subsequent patient.
 - Use fluid infusion and administration sets (i.e., intravenous bags, tubing and connectors) for one patient only, and dispose appropriately after use. Consider a syringe or needle/cannula contaminated once it has been used to enter or connect to a patient's intravenous infusion bag or administration set.
 - Use single-dose vials for parenteral medications whenever possible.
 - Do not administer medications from single-dose vials or ampules to multiple patients or combine leftover contents for later use.
 - If multiple dose vials must be used, both the needle or cannula and syringe used to access the multiple dose vial must be sterile.
 - Do not keep multiple dose vials in the immediate patient treatment area and store in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations; discard if sterility is compromised or questionable.