

POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL CENTRAL VALLEY HEALTH DISTRICT

SECTION: NURSING

POLICY # 420 INFECTION CONTROL

POLICY: Central Valley Health District will follow an Infection Control Plan to limit occupational exposure to blood and body fluids as well as any other infectious materials. Any exposure could result in the transmission of pathogens which could lead to disease or death.

PROCEDURE:

1. All employees will practice Universal Precautions.
 - a. All blood and body fluids will be considered potentially infectious.
2. All employees will follow these work practice controls:
 - a. Use of gloves when coming in contact with blood and body fluids.
 - b. Practice good hand washing techniques:
 1. Wash hands before and after client care, (20 seconds).
 2. Wash hands as soon as possible after contact with blood or body fluids.
 3. Wash hands before donning gloves and after removing gloves.
 4. When hand washing facilities are unavailable, hand sanitizers with alcohol levels of 65-90% are recommended. Wash hands with soap and water as soon as possible.
 - c. Management of sharps:
 1. Never bend, break or re-cap used needles or sharps.
 2. Place needles and sharps in puncture resistant, leak-proof, labeled containers.
 3. Fill sharps container to appropriate fill-line. **DO NOT OVER FILL!**
 4. All sharps containers taken to home visits will be returned to Central Valley Health District for proper disposal.
 - d. Use of personal protective equipment:
 1. Wear lab coat when clothing is likely to become soiled with blood or body fluids.
 2. If clothing becomes soiled with blood and/or body fluids, staff should change into clean clothing as soon as possible. CVHD will provide scrubs for employees to wear in the event that a change of clothing is needed.
 3. Wear protective eye gear when likely to be splashed in the face.
 4. Disposable, clear mouth barriers for CPR will be provided by CVHD.
3. Employees will follow these housekeeping guidelines:
 - a. Wipe up a blood or body fluid spill with disposal paper towels, then clean area and equipment with and EPA approved chemical germicide or an appropriate mixture of bleach and water. Dispose of soiled towels in plastic garbage bags. Double bag materials if the outside of the bag becomes contaminated.
 - b. Filled sharps containers are placed in cardboard storage containers and disposed of by Health Care Environmental Services, 1420 40th Street NW, Fargo, ND 701-282-0801. Notify secretary staff when cardboard storage containers are full.



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- c. Package specimens of blood /body fluids according to DOT and US Postal Service guidelines. See the North Dakota Division of Microbiology Directory of Services Manual page 27-29 for diagram.
 - d. The janitor will clean the work surface in all exam rooms and lab areas at the end of each day.
 - e. Staff should clean exam tables, scales, and equipment between patient use with *Sani Cloth Plus – Germicidal Disposal Cloth.*
4. Preventive measures:
 - a. Hepatitis B vaccine will be provided within ten working days after employment to all employees who are at risk for occupational exposure.
 - b. Mantoux testing will be done on all staff upon employment and yearly to those employees at highest risk of exposure to TB. All test results will be recorded.
 - c. Staff will be provided information on current immunization guidelines and are encouraged to update their immunizations as outlined in the guidelines.
 - d. Staff are encouraged to use proper body mechanics when lifting or assessing clients to prevent injury to client or self.
5. All staff will be provided training and education on infection control and universal precautions. Training and education will be conducted on a yearly basis and attendance will be recorded.