

Standard Precautions

Standard Precautions (SP) should be utilized to reduce the risk of transmission of microorganisms from both recognized and unrecognized sources of infection within the facility. Assume that every person is potentially infected or colonized with an organism that could be transmitted in the healthcare setting and apply the following infection control practices during the delivery of healthcare. Protective apparel is to be readily available in all patient care areas.

- a. Gloves are to be worn whenever there is anticipated contact with blood, body fluids, mucous membranes or non-intact skin.
- b. Fluid retardant gowns should be worn during procedures that are likely to generate splashes of blood or bodily fluids.
- c. Masks must be worn:
 - 1) by healthcare workers when a patient is coughing and likely to be contagious via the droplet route (e.g., confirmed or possible influenza, pertussis);
 - 2) when a patient is in a type of isolation that requires their use;
 - 3) when performing or assisting with a sterile procedure;
 - 4) use an N-95 mask or higher if the patient has a suspected or proven infection that is likely to be transmitted by the air-borne route;
 - 5) where there is evidence of transmission from heavily colonized sources (e.g., burn wounds).
- d. Eye protection and mask must be worn:
 - 1) when performing procedures in which it is reasonably anticipated that aerosols or splashes of blood or other potentially infectious body fluids may occur (e.g., bronchoscopy, wound irrigation, oral and tracheal suctioning and intubation);
 - 2) when caring for patients with open tracheostomies and/or there is potential for projectile secretions
- e. Precautions are to be taken to prevent puncture injuries. Safer medical devices are to be utilized whenever possible.
- f. All exposures should be immediately washed with soap and water or irrigated if mucous membrane contact. Do not try to force blood from the wound.
- g. All blood and body fluid exposures are to be reported immediately to Employee Health in person or by (__insert your protocol here__).
- h. Procedures involving blood and/or body fluids shall be performed in a manner to minimize splashing, spraying or aerosolization.
- i. Eating, drinking, applying cosmetics and handling contact lens are prohibited in work areas where there is potential for exposure to blood and/or body fluids.

Resources:

1. Siegel JD, Rhinehart E, Jackson M, Chiarello L, and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee, 2007 Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings, **June 2007**.
http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/gl_isolation.html

Accountability: (list all who reviewed by job titles)