



## BLOOD AND BODILY FLUID GUIDELINES

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Author	Nurse Consultant Infection Control		
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Staff/Groups Consulted	Infection Control Doctor Medical Director Director of Infection Prevention and Control Matrons Infection Prevention & Control Team		
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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. AIM .....	3
2. GENERAL PRINCIPLES.....	3
3. DEFINITION OF TERMS .....	3
4. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (GLOVES, APRONS, MASKS AND EYE PROTECTION) .....	4
5. SPILLS OF BLOOD AND BODILY FLUIDS.....	4
6. OUT OF HOURS SPECIALIST CLEANING .....	5

## **1. AIM**

- 1.1. The following guidelines set should be applied to the care of all patients by healthcare workers where there is a risk of contact with bodily fluids, excretions and secretions in order to prevent health care associated infections. These measures aim to protect patients and staff from the spread of blood-borne viruses or other harmful micro-organisms that may be present in blood or bodily fluids. It is not always possible to tell who has an infection, so all blood and bodily fluids from all patients should be treated as infected.

## **2. GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

- 2.1. Treat all blood and bodily fluids as infected.
- 2.2. Utilise best hand hygiene practice. See the Hand Hygiene Policy
- 2.3. Cover any broken skin/wounds
- 2.4. Wear personal protective equipment (PPE) when dealing with any bodily fluids.
- 2.5. Use and dispose of sharps appropriately in designated containers.
- 2.6. See the Sharps Safety guidelines
- 2.7. Disinfect bodily fluid spillages correctly
- 2.8. Handle used laundry carefully and appropriately. See the Linen and Laundry policy

## **3. DEFINITION OF TERMS**

### **3.1. Bodily fluids**

The following are defined as bodily fluids:

- Cerebrospinal fluid
- Amniotic fluid
- Synovial fluid
- Peritoneal fluid
- Vaginal fluid
- Semen
- Breast milk
- Pleural fluid
- Saliva (in association with dentistry)
- Unfixed tissues and organs

### **3.2. Excretions**

These are the waste products of metabolism and other non-useful materials and include:

- Faeces
- Sputum

- Urine
- Perspiration
- Wound exudates
- Vomit

### 3.3. **Secretions**

These are substances produced by the body to serve a specific function and include:

- Saliva
- Bile

## 4. **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (GLOVES, APRONS, MASKS AND EYE PROTECTION)**

4.1. The correct and appropriate use of PPE helps to protect patient's staff and reduces the risk opportunity for transmission of micro-organisms. Selection of PPE must be assessed by the risk of transmission of the micro-organisms to the patient and the healthcare worker including Domestic/Housekeeping Supervisor (HCW) and the risk of contamination of the HCW's clothing and skin by patient's blood, bodily fluids, secretions, excretions or from hazardous chemicals and substances.

- Always wear gloves and aprons when carrying out procedures that involve direct contact with blood or bodily fluids.
- Always wear gloves and aprons when in direct contact with any mucous membranes e.g. mouth, stoma etc.
- Dispose of gloves and aprons after every procedure/episode of care and decontaminate hands thoroughly.
- Wear a mask/eye protection if the procedure has the potential to cause splashing into the eyes, nose or mouth.

## 5. **SPILLS OF BLOOD AND BODILY FLUIDS**

### **Clinical areas**

5.1. Small blood spills onto hard surfaces

- Wear gloves and aprons
- Clean the area with Clinell universal wipes
- Dispose of as clinical waste.

5.2. Larger blood spills

- Wear gloves and aprons.
- Cover the blood spillage with neutral granules (available in spillage kits or the twin bin).
- Leave for 3 minutes.
- Use paper towels to remove and dispose of as clinical waste.
- Clean the area with detergent and water.

- Rinse and dry the area.

### **Non Clinical areas**

#### 5.3. Small blood spills onto hard surfaces

- Wear gloves and aprons
- Clean the area with Clinell universal wipes
- Dispose of as clinical waste.

#### 5.4. Larger blood spills

- Collect [spillage kit](#) from one of the following areas, Main, Maternity and Outpatient reception, the Canteen and the Supervisors office.
- Follow the instructions in the lid of the kit

## **6. OUT OF HOURS SPECIALIST CLEANING**

#### 6.1. If you require the Out of Hours Specialist Cleaning please contact the Housekeeping/Domestic Supervisor on 6354 during the following hours:

- Monday – Friday 18.00hrs – 02.00hrs
- Saturday and Sunday 08.00hrs – 16.00hrs



## Equality Impact Assessment Tool

To be completed and attached to any procedural document when submitted to the appropriate committee for consideration and approval.

Name of Document: Blood and Bodily Fluids Guidelines

		Yes/No	Comments
1.	Does the policy/guidance affect one group less or more favourably than another on the basis of:		
	Race	No	
	Ethnic origins (including gypsies and travellers)	No	
	Nationality	No	
	Gender	No	
	Culture	No	
	Religion or belief	No	
	Sexual orientation including lesbian, gay and bisexual people	No	
	Age	No	
	Disability	No	
2.	Is there any evidence that some groups are affected differently?	No	
3.	If you have identified potential discrimination, are any exceptions valid, legal and/or justifiable?	N/A	
4.	Is the impact of the policy/guidance likely to be negative?	No	
5.	If so can the impact be avoided?	N/A	
6.	What alternatives are there to achieving the policy/guidance without the impact?	N/A	
7.	Can we reduce the impact by taking different action?	N/A	

For advice or if you have identified a potential discriminatory impact of this procedural document, please refer it to The Equality & Diversity Lead, Yeovil Academy, together with any suggestions as to the action required to avoid/reduce this impact.

Signed **Rachael Grey**

Date: Jan 2019