

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
WARREN GRANT MAGNUSON CLINICAL CENTER
NURSING AND PATIENT CARE SERVICES

POLICY: Universal Precautions

Universal precautions are practiced at all times for all patients when job exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials may occur. Appropriate personal protective barriers will be used for all tasks and procedures where occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials is possible. Environmental engineering controls (i.e., hand washing facilities, medical pathological waste boxes, sharps disposal boxes, solutions for decontamination of spills) will be available and used as appropriate.

Some patients may require further infection control parameters due to active infections, recent exposures, or susceptibility to communicable disease. Specific isolation measures are described in detail in the Isolation Guidelines flipchart located on patient units.

Initially upon employment and annually thereafter all N&PCS employees and contract staff working for NPCS having patient contact or providing patient care will review universal precautions. Compliance will be monitored by the Nurse Manager/ Service Chief and documented during the employee's annual performance evaluation.

PURPOSE: To reduce the risk of transmission of blood borne pathogens and other potentially infectious materials

REFERENCES: Clinical Center Isolation Guideline Flipchart 1998
Clinical Center TB Exposure Control Plan, 98, Hospital Epidemiology Service

Approved:

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