

## N-100 Standard Infection Control Procedures for Home Care

Standard precautions were developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide the widest possible protection against transmission of infection. Standard Precautions include many of the isolation precautions previously recommended by the CDC for clients with known or suspected blood-borne pathogens as well as the precautions previously known as body substance isolation. They are to be used in conjunction with other transmission based precautions including airborne and contact precautions.

### Purpose

Provide protection against the transmission of infection.

Comply with guidelines of OSHA and CDC in creating a safe environment for all health care workers and other caregivers in the home setting.

### Applies To

Registered Nurses

Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses

Other (*Identify*): \_\_\_\_\_

### Equipment/Supplies

- Gloves.
- Masks.
- Protective eyewear.
- Face shields.
- Gowns/Aprons/Lab Coats.
- Household bleach or EPA registered tuberculocidal disinfectant or EPA registered disinfectant labeled effective against hepatitis and HIV.
- Leak-proof containers for specimen.
- Biohazard stickers.
- Sharps container.

### Procedure

1. Wash hands before and after client care and after removing gloves. Refer to Hand Washing Procedure. Gloves should be worn for any known or anticipated contact with blood, body fluids, tissue, mucous membrane and non-intact skin. Change gloves and wash hands between client contacts.

2. Wear a fluid resistant gown or apron and glasses, goggles, and/or mask during procedures that are likely to generate splashing of body fluids.
3. Carefully manage all needles and other sharp instruments. Don't bend, break, or remove needles from syringes. Discard them intact immediately after use into a puncture resistant container. Use tools to pick up broken glass or other sharp objects.
4. Notify employer/supervisor of all needle stick or other sharp object injuries, splashes, or contamination of open wounds or non-intact skin with blood or body fluids.
5. Label all specimens collected from clients and place them in plastic bags at the collection site. Attach request slips to the outside of the bag\place all items that have come in direct contact with client secretions, excretions, blood, drainage, or body fluids in a single bag or container before removing.
6. Promptly clean all blood and body fluid spills with detergent and water followed by an EPA registered tuberculocidal disinfectant or diluted bleach solution between 1:10 to 1:100 mixed daily or an EPA registered disinfectant labeled effective against HBV and HIV.
7. Employees with exudative lesions should avoid all contact with clients until the condition has resolved and the employee has been cleared to return to work by their physician.
8. Employees who have dermatitis or other skin conditions that result in broken skin should not have contact with blood or body fluids even if wearing gloves.
9. Failure to follow the standard precautions may lead to exposure to blood borne diseases or other infections and any complications this may cause.
10. Use barrier precautions when contact with blood/body fluids is anticipated, including all invasive procedures.

**Disposal of Biohazardous Waste:**

1. Identify all items that meet the definition of biohazardous waste.
2. Safely and appropriately package, transport and dispose of these items.
3. Explain disposal procedures and regulatory requirements to clients and families to avoid misunderstandings.
4. Know the policy of the agency and the laws of the state.
5. Clean the blood spills promptly. First, PUT ON gloves. Then, use paper towels to soak spill. Clean with detergent followed by household bleach solution.
6. Place sharps and needles in puncture-resistant containers. Remove containers when 3/4 full and dispose according to the Agency Waste Disposal Policy.
7. Syringes with needles attached must be placed in needle boxes. Syringes without needles may be placed in the regular trash, provided they are emptied of fluids.

8. IV bags/tubing should be emptied of all fluid and placed in the regular trash. Needles must be removed or cut off and placed in a sharps container.
9. Containers (i.e., Foley bags, suction canisters, etc.) and their tubing should be emptied and rinsed before being discarded in the regular trash.
10. Dressings that are soiled with blood or drainage should be placed in an approved biohazardous waste container.
11. Sterile or clean supplies left in the home should be stored in a clean area that is used for supplies only. Cover supplies with plastic or a towel.

**Handling and Transporting Specimens:**

1. All specimens will be collected in leak-proof containers appropriate for the specimen
2. Containers with specimens will be transported either by placing them in a carrier or a sealed plastic bag. Specimens should be transported without needles attached to syringes.
3. The outside of the container is to be labeled with a color-coded biohazard sticker.
4. Contaminated, reusable sharps should be placed in a leak-proof, puncture-resistant, and appropriately labeled container.

***NOTE: Insect or rodent infestation may be an obstacle to infection control in the home. If the client does not have adequate resources to eliminate these pests, the agency can contact the public health department and other government agencies for advice and assistance***

**Related Procedures**

None.

**Policy History**

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