

Infection Control (Universal Precautions)

INFECTION CONTROL MEASURES

1. Always carry disposable gloves and a pocket mask with a one-way valve when on duty or first responding.
2. Gloves should be worn whenever there is the potential to be exposed to blood/body fluids.
3. All open wounds and sores must be protected and covered.
4. If blood/body fluids get into your mouth, immediately rinse mouth with mouthwash or alcohol. Never put fingers, pencils and etc. into your mouth.
5. **DO NOT RECAP NEEDLES.**
6. Masks should be worn if your patient has a rash, fever, cough, or jaundice of unknown origin.
7. Eye protection and masks should be used whenever there is the potential for blood/body fluid splashes and when performing airway care such as suctioning and intubation.
8. Protective clothing should be worn if there is the potential for large amounts of blood/body fluids to be present. (childbirth, arterial bleeding).
9. A thorough hand washing with soap and water is the single most effective preventive measure. Alcohol or an alcohol based hand rinse should be used until soap and water is available.

Blood/Body Fluid Exposures

1. A reportable blood/body fluid exposure occurs when you:
 - a. Accidentally receive a puncture wound from a sharp object that has previously been exposed to blood/body fluids.
 - b. Get blood/body fluid in an open lesion, cut or rash.
 - c. Get blood/body fluids splashed into a mucous membrane.
 - d. Have a large blood spill on your intact skin or have a prolonged exposure.
2. If you are exposed to blood/body fluids:
 - a. Register as a patient at the hospital that received the patient. This needs to be done while the patient is still physically in the ER. DOA's should be brought to the hospital, so their blood may be drawn.
 - b. Notify your squad captain.
 - c. Notify your squad's insurance company.