

Spills of Blood and Body Fluids

Site Applicability

All PHC Acute and Long Term Care Sites.

Practice Level

Basic: All direct care staff and Environmental Services

Standard

Exposure to blood and other body fluids, such as feces, vomit, pus and urine, pose a potential risk for transmission of infection to those providing care. Viruses, such as hepatitis B, can be transmitted through blood or other body fluids. Therefore, quick and effective management of spillages is essential.

Direct care staff who identify the spill should isolate the area and begin the initial clean of blood or body fluid waste. Afterwards, Environmental Services should be notified promptly to clean area with detergent and disinfect using approved hospital disinfectant.

If spill involves broken glassware, do not pick glass up with hands. Use tongs, forceps or brush and dustpan to place in sharps container.

Procedure

Direct Care Staff:

1. Gather required materials:
 - Gloves and appropriate [personal protective equipment](#) (PPE; consider face protection if risk of aerosolization)
 - Disposable absorbent towels (e.g. paper towels, blue pads)
 - Garbage bags/bin
2. Inspect area thoroughly for splatters or splashes.
3. Isolate the area, if possible. Use a wet floor sign/flag to warn of slipping hazard.
4. Put on gloves. Apply additional PPE if there is a danger of splashing during cleaning, e.g. goggles, mask, face shield, gown.
5. Wipe up bloody/body fluids with absorbent towels.
6. Discard waste into regular garbage unless soiled materials are completely saturated and dripping, in which case dispose into a yellow biohazard bag.
7. Remove gloves, dispose of other PPE and perform hand hygiene.
8. Request STAT clean of area from Environmental Services.

Environmental Services:

9. Gather required materials:
 - Gloves and appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE; consider face protection if risk of aerosolization)
 - Disposable absorbent towels (e.g. paper towels, blue pads)
 - Detergent and approved hospital disinfectant or bleach (1:10 or 5000ppm)
 - Garbage bags/bin
10. Put on gloves. Apply additional PPE if there is a danger of splashing during cleaning, e.g. goggles, mask, face shield, gown.
11. Clean area with detergent and then used appropriate hospital-approved disinfectant or bleach (1:10 or 5000 ppm). Allow disinfectant to dwell for amount of time recommended by manufacturer.
12. Wipe up the area again with absorbent towels if still wet and discard in regular waste.
13. Remove gloves, dispose of other PPE and perform hand hygiene.

Related Documents

- [B-00-07-13088](#) - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - Infection Control
- [B-00-07-13081](#) - Point of Care Risk Assessment - IPAC Best Practice Guideline
- [B-00-07-13045](#) - Routine Practices

References

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2019). Guideline for Environmental Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdf/guidelines/environmental-guidelines-P.pdf>
- Provincial Infection Control Network of British Columbia. (2016). British Columbia Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning for Prevention and Control of Infections in All Healthcare Settings and Programs. Retrieved from <https://www.picnet.ca/wp-content/uploads/British-Columbia-Best-Practices-for-Environmental-Cleaning-for-Prevention-and-Control-of-Infections-in-All-Healthcare-Settings-and-Programs.pdf>
- Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee. (2018). Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning for Prevention and Control of Infections. Retrieved from <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/B/2018/bp-environmental-cleaning.pdf>



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