

## NORTHPOINTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS

**POLICY TITLE:** Universal/Standard Precautions

**PAGE:** 1 of 2

**MANUAL:** Infection Control

**SECTION:** Infection Control

**ORIGINAL EFFECTIVE DATE:** 2/19/99

**BOARD APPROVAL DATE:** 10/24/13

**REVIEWED/REVISED ON DATE:** 2/9/17

**CURRENT EFFECTIVE DATE:** 5/1/14

**REVISIONS TO POLICY STATEMENT:**  YES  NO **OTHER REVISIONS:**  YES  NO

**APPLIES TO:** All Northpointe employees and contract employees

### **POLICY:**

It is the policy of Northpointe Behavioral Healthcare Systems (NBHS) that standard precautions will be utilized in order to minimize the potential spread of infection.

### **PURPOSE:**

To prevent contamination or the spread of bloodborne pathogens, microorganisms or other potential infectious material (OPIM).

### **DEFINITIONS:**

**Universal Precautions:** Universal precautions is an approach to infection control to treat all human blood and certain human body fluids as if they were known to be infectious for HIV, HBV and other bloodborne pathogens. The following fluids are considered potential infection control risks: semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, pericardial fluid, peritoneal fluid, amniotic fluid, saliva in dental procedures, any body fluid that is visibly contaminated with blood, and all body fluids in situations where it is difficult or impossible to differentiate between body fluids.

**Standard Precautions;** which applies to 1) blood; 2) all body fluids, secretions, and excretions, *except sweat*, regardless of whether or not they contain visible blood; 3) non-intact skin; and 4) mucous membranes. Standard precautions are designed to reduce the risk of transmission of microorganisms from both recognized and unrecognized sources of infection. Standard precautions include

- a) Hand Hygiene
- b) Use of personal protective equipment (e.g., gloves gowns, masks)
- c) Safe injection practices including sharps containers
- d) Safe handling of potentially contaminated equipment or surfaces
- e) Respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette

### **PROCEDURES:**

1. Hand hygiene is the primary means for stopping the spread of infection Use soap and water when hands are visibly soiled (e.g., blood, body fluids) or after caring for a person with known or suspected infectious disease. Hand sanitizers are acceptable when hands are not visibly soiled. Hands will be cleansed before and after using the restroom, before and after eating and after using tissues. Hands will be cleansed after contact with service recipients.

#### **a) Hand washing procedure:**

- ✓ Use soap and warm running water.
- ✓ Rub hands together for approximately 20 seconds to work up lather.
- ✓ Scrub between fingers, knuckles, wrists, backs of hands, and nails.
- ✓ Using rotating frictional motion rub hands while you count up to 20.
- ✓ Rinse hands under warm running water.
- ✓ Use paper towels to thoroughly dry hands.
- ✓ Turn off water with paper towel
- ✓ Discard paper towels.

#### **b) How to use hand sanitizers:**

- ✓ Apply the product to hands and wet thoroughly.
- ✓ Rub your hands together rub the product over all surfaces of your hands and fingers until your hands are dry.

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### 2. **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):**

PPE is available to staff and should be used when a potential for occupational exposure exists. Employees are to use appropriate barrier precautions to prevent skin and mucous membrane exposure when in contact with blood or other body fluids of anyone is anticipated.

- a) Gloves will be worn when carrying out procedures in which there may be contact with blood or other potential infections material.
  - ✓ Whenever contact with blood or body fluids, mucous membranes or broken skin is a possibility.
  - ✓ When assisting with toileting, feeding, tooth brushing and must be changed between individuals.
  - ✓ During invasive procedures, such as blood drawing or injections
  - ✓ During instrumental and digital examination of mouth and throat.
  - ✓ If the employee has cuts, abraded skin, chapped hands, dermatitis, or any other loss of skin integrity.
  - ✓ While handling laboratory specimens, soiled linen, and clothing which have been grossly contaminated with blood and/or other body fluid.
- b) Hands will be cleansed immediately after gloves are discarded.
- c) Face shields, protective masks shall be worn during procedures which are likely to generate droplets which could expose mucous membranes (eyes, nose, and mouth).
- d) Gowns/booties shall be worn to protect clothing/shoes in situation where they may be spattering of infectious material.
- e) Compromised skin integrity needs to be kept clean and covered to prevent entry of infectious organisms
- f) Personnel using sharps should take precautions to prevent injuries. After using syringes or needles do not recap, bend, break or manipulate by hand. Sharps containers should be in an easily accessible location without body crossover .Dispose of sharps in biohazard puncture-resistant container that is clearly labeled for that purpose. When a portable sharps container has been used it is to be returned to a nurse for proper disposal.
- g) Contaminated linens, towels or clothing shall be handled with gloves. Place items in a closable a bag before transporting to another area.
- h) Gowns will be worn when contamination splashes are possible.
- i) Masks and eye protectors will be worn when splashes or generated droplets are likely to occur with contamination of mucosal membranes (eyes, mouth or nose). Masks and eye protectors are not required for routine care.
- j) Non-reusable PPE will be discarded appropriately after use.
- k) Contaminated equipment, work surfaces and areas will immediately be cleaned and disinfected following manufacture's guidelines when disinfecting. Prepared bleach solution can easily be mistaken for water if stored in a clear container and when containers are exposure to light will cause bleach to degrade and loose its effectiveness. Bleach should be labeled and stored in a cool and dry secured environment with the lid of the storage container tightly sealed.

### **REFERENCES:**

CDC Guidelines

MIOSHA Regulations

Exposure Control Plan

WHO Guidelines.