

Infection Control Procedures

Universal Precautions (Body Substance Isolations)

Universal precautions should be used for all patient contacts when the health care provider may be exposed to blood and body fluids. Universal precautions assume that all patients are carriers of infectious / contagious diseases.

General Recommendations:

- * All Providers be vaccinated against Hepatitis B.
- * All Providers know their agency's Infection Control Policy and Ryan White Act to include:
 - Who is the Designated Officer in regards to the Ryan White Act and;
 - What to do if they have a true exposure.
- * Gloves, Goggles and face mask/shield should be worn when handling blood, body fluids, skin, tissue or body parts.
- * Change gloves before handling a new patient and wash your hands between patient contact.
- * If you expect to provide ventilatory support, you should always use a face mask/barrier.
- * Discard all sharps in an approved Sharps Container - Do Not Recap Needles.
- * Put all contaminated linen and clothes in a clear plastic bag before sending to laundry.
- * Have non - latex equipment available for providers and patients that are allergic to latex.

Since there is NO RELIABLE, immediate means to identify infected patients in the out - of - hospital environment, health care providers should be equally cautious when caring for all patients.