



NMMC

Main Unit Surgery

Title: Standard Precautions in Surgery

---

Rationale: To ensure a safe hospital environment for patients, visitors, hospital and medical staff and to minimize the risk of exposure to blood and body fluids and to prevent the transmission of HIV/HBV.

Policy: Standard Precautions will be utilized by surgery employees and visitors.

Procedure:

A. Standard Precautions and Personal Protective Equipment

1. Blood, body fluids, and other potentially infectious materials should be considered biohazardous. Employee exposures (puncture wounds, mucosal splashes, or contamination of non-intact skin) should be reported immediately to employee health via an Employee Occurrence Report and to the staff person's supervisor.
2. Gloves should be worn when contact with blood, body fluids, human tissues, or other potentially infectious materials or contaminated surfaces is possible.
3. Fluid proof gowns should be worn if splashing of potentially infectious materials is possible.
4. Face shields and protective eye wear must be worn if splashing of potentially infectious materials is possible, which would include during any invasive procedure.
5. N95 masks should be worn during any procedure on a known or suspected patient with an airborne communicable disease (i.e. TB, SARS).

B. Handling and Disposal of Contaminated Sharps, Instruments, Linens, and Related Materials

1. Needles and other sharps will be disposed of in a puncture-resistant, leak proof, biohazard labeled container.

2. The sharp containers should remain upright throughout use, be replaced routinely, and not be allowed to overfill. Sharp containers will be checked daily by OR staff and replaced when two-thirds full and/or as needed by medical waste removal personnel.
3. If needles must be recapped during a surgical procedure, a one handed method is to be used.
4. Upon completion of a procedure, contaminated material will be disposed of or removed to the appropriate area for reprocessing. A color coded waste and linen disposal system is used to comply with Universal Precautions:
  - a. Blue bags: Non-disposable linen
  - b. Red bags: Regulated/contaminated disposable waste
  - c. White bags: Non-contaminated waste
5. Contaminated trays will be transported to the soiled utility room using biohazard signage.

Distributed to: Infection Control

Issued Date: Circa 1990

Reviewed Date: July 2000  
December 2004  
November 2006  
July 2008  
August 2012  
September 2014

Revised Date: December 2001  
July 2003  
July 2008  
January 2011  
May 2017  
May 2019