

<b>Operational Directive</b>	<b>WRHA Infection Prevention &amp; Control Program</b>	
	<b>Spill Management</b>	Page 1 of 4
	<b>Approval Signature:</b> Original signed by Dr. Ainslie Mihalchuk	<b>Supersedes:</b> Cleaning Blood and Body Fluid Spills Operational Directive, March 12, 2012
	<b>Approval Date:</b> November 2019	
<b>Review Date:</b> November 2022		

**1. PURPOSE:**

To reduce the potential for transmission of infection while cleaning and disinfecting fluid spills.

**2. DEFINITIONS:**

- 2.1. **Aerosols**: Solid or liquid particles suspended in the air, whose motion is governed principally by particle size, ranging from 10µm-100µm.  
 Note: Particles less than 10µm (i.e.) droplet nuclei can also be found in aerosols; however, their motion is controlled by other physical parameters. <sup>[7.4]</sup>
- 2.2. **Cleaning**: The physical removal of foreign material, e.g., dust, soil and organic material such as blood, secretions, excretions and microorganisms. Cleaning physically removes rather than kills microorganisms. It is accomplished with water, detergents and mechanical action. <sup>[7.4]</sup>
- 2.3. **Disinfectant**: Product used on inanimate object to reduce the quantity of microorganisms to an acceptable level. Hospital grade disinfectants require a drug identification number (DIN) for sale in Canada. <sup>[7.4]</sup>
- 2.4. **Disinfection**: The inactivation of disease producing organisms with the exception of bacterial spores. Hospital-grade disinfectants are used on inanimate objects and require a drug identification number (DIN) for sale in Canada. <sup>[7.5]</sup>
- 2.5. **Disposable Absorbent Material**: Material such as paper towels, rags, sand or absorbent polymers that are available in a commercially prepared blood spill kits.
- 2.6. **Healthcare Worker (HCW)**: Individuals who provide direct care or support services such as nurses, physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, paramedics and sometimes emergency first responders, allied health professionals, unregulated health care providers, students, volunteers and housekeeping staff. <sup>[7.4]</sup>
- 2.7. **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**: One element in the Hierarchy of Controls. Personal protective equipment consists of gowns, gloves, masks, facial protection (i.e., masks and eye protection, face shields or masks with visor attachment) or respirators that can be used by a HCW or other staff to provide a barrier that will prevent potential exposure to infectious microorganism. <sup>[7.4]</sup>

### 3. OPERATIONAL DIRECTIVE:

- 3.1. Clean all spills immediately.
- 3.2. The HCW who first encounters the spill is responsible for beginning the process to ensure the spill is cleaned and disinfected appropriately. E.g.:
  - Report the spill to the appropriate department,
  - Call a code brown when necessary, and
  - Clean the gross soiling before disinfection when appropriate.
- 3.3. Clean mixed spills containing blood and body fluids and cytotoxic or antineoplastic waste according to WRHA Policy 110.160.010 [Safe Handling of Hazardous Medications \(cytotoxic and Non-cytotoxic\)](#) for blood and body fluids clean-up; and the [WRHA Cytotoxic Spill Management Algorithm](#):
  - For **CJD** see WRHA IP&C Manual [Creutzfeldt - Jakob disease \(CJD\)](#) for specific cleaning procedures.
  - For Radioactive spills see WRHA Regional Program Policy 120.30.810 [Radioactive Spill Management and Decontamination](#) for specific cleaning procedures.
  - For spills inside of labs and Diagnostic Imaging see DSM policy F70-41-13 [Complex Spills](#) for specific cleaning procedures.

### 4. PROCEDURE:

- 4.1. Assess the type, location and size of spill and determine the need to call a Code Brown i.e., spill of chemicals or hazardous material.
- 4.2. Contain the spill immediately by placing absorbent material over the spill. For spills greater than 500 milliliters create a rim around the perimeter of the spill with the available absorbent material. <sup>[7.4]</sup>
- 4.3. Upon discovery of the spill display appropriate signage and restrict non-essential access to the area, as appropriate, until area is cleaned and disinfected.
- 4.4. Perform a point of care risk assessment (PCRA) to determine need for appropriate PPE e.g. risks of splashes or sprays. Additional PPE may include:
  - Gloves when in contact with blood or body fluids.
  - Masks to protect mucous membranes from splashes/sprays.
  - Gowns if soiling of clothes or forearms is likely.
  - Facial Protection to protect mucous membranes from splashes/sprays.Put on rubber boots or fluid resistant shoe covers if soiling of footwear is likely. Replace PPE if it becomes wet, damaged or soiled during the cleanup. <sup>[7.1]</sup>
- 4.5. Avoid activities which may create aerosolization during cleaning e.g. vacuuming a spill or using a fan to dry a spill.
- 4.6. Use appropriate tools i.e. brush or forceps for spills involving sharps or broken glass. For detailed instructions, see [WRHA Sharps, Safe handling, Use and Disposal Policy #20.20.020](#).

## 5. CLEANING:

- 5.1. Spills must be cleaned before being disinfected. Organic matter such as blood and body fluids inactivate many disinfectants and must be cleaned before disinfection. To clean spills:
  - Wipe up any fluids immediately.
  - Place disposable absorbent material directly on contaminated area.
  - Dispose of soiled material as per [5.2](#).
  - Disinfect after the spill has been cleaned as per [section 6](#).
- 5.2. Safely dispose of soiled material in a garbage bag or plastic lined receptacle and discard in regular waste. If soiled material is heavily saturated with blood or bodily fluids, place material into a biomedical waste container. See [WRHA Sharps Disposal](#). <sup>[7.8]</sup> <sup>[7.6]</sup>
- 5.3. For carpets or upholstery - soak up as much blood/body fluid as possible with disposable absorbent material. Dispose of soiled material as per [5.2](#).

## 6. DISINFECTING

- 6.1. Disinfect after cleaning by pouring facility approved disinfectant directly onto the surface area. Facility approved disinfectant wipes may also be used when appropriate.
  - 6.1.1. Cover and saturate the spill area with facility approved liquid disinfectant or wipe with facility approved disinfectant wipes.
  - 6.1.2. Maintain wet contact time according to manufacturer's instructions.
  - 6.1.3. When using liquid disinfectant wipe up the disinfected area with disposable absorbent material and discard into regular waste.
  - 6.1.4. When using facility approved disinfectant wipes discard facility wipes into regular waste.
- 6.2. For disinfecting carpets or upholstery:
  - 6.2.1. Remove and discard contaminated carpets where possible.
  - 6.2.2. When removal is not an option follow steps [6.1.1](#) and [6.1.2](#).
  - 6.2.3. Use an industrial carpet cleaner to remove the disinfectant.
  - 6.2.4. Clean and disinfect the carpet cleaner.
    - Remove gloves and clean your hands.
    - Put on new gloves.
    - Use facility approved disinfectant to clean the nozzle, hose and receptacle.
    - Allow to air dry.
  - 6.2.5. Replace damaged wooden surfaces if contaminated with blood or body fluids.
  - 6.2.6. Remove and discard PPE into appropriate receptacle.
  - 6.2.7. Clean your hands.

## 7. REFERENCES

- 7.1. [APIC Text of Infection Control and Epidemiology, 4th edition](#). (2014). Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology Inc. Accessed November 13, 2019.
- 7.2. [Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning for Prevention and Control of Infections in All Healthcare Settings 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition](#). (2018, April). Provincial Infectious Disease Advisory Committee PIDAC. Accessed November 13, 2019.
- 7.3. [Blood and Body Fluid Spills](#). (2016, January). Alberta Health Services. Accessed November 13, 2019.
- 7.4. [Blood Borne Spill Cleanup Procedures](#). (2017). Shared Health Diagnostic Services Manitoba. Accessed November 13, 2019.
- 7.5. [Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health Care Facilities](#). (2003, last update February 15, 2017) CDC and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC), US Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta, GA 30333. Accessed November 13, 2019.
- 7.6. [Routine Practices and Additional Precautions: Preventing the Transmission of Infection in Health Care](#). (2019). Manitoba Health. Accessed November 13, 2019.
- 7.7. [Routine Practices and Additional Precautions for Preventing the Transmission of Infection in HealthCare Settings](#). (2016, November). Public Health Agency of Canada. Accessed November 13, 2019.
- 7.8. [Sharps Disposal](#). Winnipeg Regional Health Authority Form #W-00600A. Accessed November 13, 2019.

### **Operational Directive Contact:**

Janice Briggs, RN, BA, MScN, CIC

Infection Prevention and Control Specialist, WRHA IP&C Program