



 <p>Winnipeg Regional Health Authority Office régional de la santé de Winnipeg <i>Caring for Health À l'écoute de notre santé</i></p> <p><b>Operational Directives</b></p>	<b>WRHA Infection Prevention &amp; Control Program</b>	
	<b>Cleaning Blood and Body Fluid Spills in Community Health Services</b>	
	Page 1 of 6	
	<p><b>Approval Signature:</b> N/A</p>	<p><b>Supercedes:</b> New</p>
<p><b>Date of Approval:</b> January 28, 2013</p>		
<p><b>Review Date:</b></p>		

**1. PURPOSE:**

To reduce the transmission of microorganisms and prevent exposure to potentially infectious agents through blood and body fluid spills.

**2. DEFINITIONS:**

- 2.1 **Aerosolization:** To disperse or discharge as a fine mist or spray which contains minute particles.
- 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. Cleaning reduces or eliminates the reservoirs of potential pathogenic organisms. It is accomplished with water, detergents and mechanical action.
- 2.3 **Disinfection:** The inactivation of disease producing organisms. Disinfection does not destroy all bacterial spores. Disinfectants are used on inanimate objects. Disinfection usually involves chemicals, heat or ultraviolet light. Levels of chemical disinfection vary with the type of product/item used. In the community use a common household product labeled by the manufacturer as a disinfectant – follow the manufacturer’s directions on the container.
- 2.4 **Disposable Absorbent Material:** Material such as paper towels, rags, sand or absorbent polymers that are available in a commercially prepared blood spill kits.



- 2.5 Facility Approved Disinfectant: A disinfectant cleaner that meets the criteria for appropriate type and concentration and is approved by the facility/organization.
- 2.6 Common Household Disinfectant: A product labeled as a disinfectant by the manufacturer and is readily available in a retail store.
- 2.7 Healthcare Worker: an individual who provides direct care to patients/clients/residents in the healthcare workplace i.e. nurses, doctors, allied health
- 2.8 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Gloves, gowns, masks and protective eyewear and face protection used according to risk of exposure to prevent transmission of infection and injurious health effects due to exposure to hazardous substances

### **3. OPERATIONAL DIRECTIVE:**

- 3.1 Mixed spills containing blood and body fluids and cytotoxic or antineoplastic waste are cleaned according to WRHA Cytotoxic Agents, Safe Handling Policy #110.160.010 for blood and body fluids clean up.
- 3.2 All spilled blood and other body fluids must be cleaned up immediately.
- 3.3 The health care worker who first encounters the spill is responsible for ensuring it is cleaned and disinfected appropriately.
- 3.4 Appropriate PPE shall be worn for the clean up of blood and other body fluid spills as per WRHA Routine Practices Policy #90.00.060.

### **4. PROCEDURE:**

- 4.1 Assess the type, location and size of spill.
- 4.2 Contain the spill and section off the area immediately, as appropriate.
- 4.3 Wear appropriate PPE. This will include gloves, gown, mask and eye protection if splashing is likely. For large spills, rubber boots or shoe covers may be necessary.
- 4.4 Avoid activities which may generate aerosols during cleaning and disinfection.

#### In a Community facility:

- 4.5 Clean all spills of blood/body fluid or any other soiling material before applying disinfectant. To remove excess blood and body fluids for spills:



- 4.5.1 Involving a smaller area on carpets or upholstery - soak up as much blood/body fluid as possible with disposable absorbent material. Scoop mixture into a garbage bag or plastic lined receptacle and discard in regular waste.
- 4.5.2 Involving a larger area - use a mop and pail.
- 4.6 Use appropriate tools i.e. tongs or forceps for spills involving sharps or broken glass. For detailed instructions, see WRHA Sharps, Safe handling, Use and Disposal Policy #20.20.020
- 4.7 Disinfect after cleaning by pouring facility approved disinfectant directly onto the spill area.
  - 4.7.1 Allow contact time according to manufacturer's recommended instructions.
  - 4.7.2 Cover and saturate the spill area completely without spreading the spill
  - 4.7.3 Wipe the area with disposable absorbent material and dispose of in a plastic lined waste receptacle.
  - 4.7.4 For carpets and upholstery, use of an industrial strength HEPA filtered wetvac is recommended to remove the disinfectant. Upholstery or carpeting that cannot be disinfected as described above as well as damaged wooden surface must be replaced once contaminated with blood/body fluids
- 4.8 If facility approved disinfectant requires rinsing, use a clean mop head and put clean water in the dedicated pail to rinse the area. For smaller spills, use a clean cloth with clean water to rinse.
- 4.9 Display appropriate signage until area is dry or have personnel secure the area.
- 4.10 Dispose of water and reprocess pail and mop head according to facility/organization policies and procedures. Avoid splashing during clean-up procedures.
- 4.11 Clean the wetvac nozzle, hose and receptacle with facility approved disinfectant. Allow to air dry.



#### 4.12 Remove and discard all PPE.

4.12.1 Reusable gloves must be thoroughly washed with soap and warm water and then hung to dry. If they are punctured or torn, they must be discarded.

#### 4.13 Perform hand hygiene after gloves are removed.

##### In the Client's home:

4.14 Clean all spills of blood/body fluid or any other soiling material before applying disinfectant. To remove excess blood and body fluids for spills:

4.14.1 Cover with disposable absorbent material (e.g.: paper towels) and allow time to absorb spill. Scoop mixture into garbage bag, secure bag and discard in regular waste.

4.15 Use appropriate tools i.e. tongs or forceps if available for spills involving sharps or broken glass. *An acceptable alternative in the home is a dustpan and broom.* Never handle glass or sharps directly. For detailed instructions, see WRHA Sharps, Safe handling, Use and Disposal Policy #20.20.020

4.16 The area will need to be disinfected after cleaning. Not all household cleaning products are disinfectants. Check the product (manufacturer) label to see if the cleaning product can also be used to disinfect (disinfection may require an increased contact time of the product on the spill area or a stronger dilution, this information will be on the product label). *Ammonia is not considered to be a disinfectant and should not be used to disinfect areas after a blood or body fluid spill.*

##### To disinfect:

4.16.1 If using a liquid household disinfectant, ensure that the directions on the product (manufacturer) label are used (the label will provide instruction about whether or not to dilute the product with water and how much time the disinfectant should remain on the surface). Many household disinfectants can be poured directly onto the spill area and must remain wet for a period of time in order to disinfect the surface.

4.16.2 If using ready-to-use (RTU) wipes; wipe the area with a scrubbing motion and ensure the area remains wet for the amount of time recommended on the disinfectant manufacturer label. This may mean the area will need to be wiped again with a fresh RTU cloth to ensure the area remains moist for the entire time.



- 4.16.3 The first choice for cleaning up spills in the home is a household disinfectant. If a household disinfectant is not available a 1:10 bleach solution may be used with the home owner's consent. (1/2 cup of bleach mixed with 5 cups of water).
- 4.16.4 Extreme caution should be used when handling bleach/bleach solution due to the potential of: damaging client property (e.g.: damage of surfaces or removal of dye), production of noxious fumes, and skin & eye irritation/damage for both WRHA staff and client.
- 4.16.5 When handling bleach or a bleach solution appropriate PPE should be worn.
- 4.16.6 The remaining bleach solution should be discarded immediately after use as it is only effective for a short period of time
- 4.17 Cover and saturate the spill area completely with the disinfecting product taking care not to spread the spill.
- 4.18 Allow contact time according to disinfectant manufacturer's recommended instructions
- 4.19 Wipe the area with disposable absorbent material (e.g.: paper towel) and dispose of in a garbage bag, secure bag and discard in regular waste.
- 4.20 Carpets and upholstery can be cleaned with a common household disinfectant but only according to the disinfectant manufacturer's instructions (e.g. : Do a patch test on a small area prior to applying to entire spill)
- 4.21 If required: Rinse area according to the disinfectant manufacturer's instructions
- 4.22 Remove and discard all PPE.
- 4.22.1 Reusable gloves must be thoroughly washed with soap and warm water and then hung to dry.
- 4.23 Perform hand hygiene after gloves are removed.

## 5. REFERENCES



- 5.1 Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology Inc., 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., (2009) APIC Text of Infection Control and Epidemiology. Available at: <http://www.apic.org/>
  
- 5.2 Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning for Prevention and Control of Infections in All Healthcare Settings, (2009) Provincial Infectious Disease Advisory Committee (PIDAC) Available at: <http://www.oahpp.ca/resources/documents/pidac/Best%20Practices%20for%20Environmental%20Cleaning.pdf>
  
- 5.3 Cleaning Blood and Body Fluid Spills, Riverview Health Center, Winnipeg, MB. (2004) Policy # 30:20:01
  
- 5.4 Cleanup of Blood and Body Fluid Spills, Concordia General Hospital, Winnipeg, MB (2001) Policy # S – 8.0
  
- 5.5 Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health Care Facilities (2003) Recommendations of 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 January 16, 2008 from: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5210a1.htm>
  
- 5.6 Health Canada (1998) Hand washing, Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization in Health Care. Accessed January 16, 2008 from: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/98pdf/cdr24s8e.pdf>
  
- 5.7 Infection Control in Home Care and Hospice. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Rhinehart, E. & McGoldrick, M. Chapter 10, pp. 140. Jones & Bartlett Publishers Inc. (2006)
  
- 5.8 Materials Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for Sodium Hypochlorite. Chlorox Company of Canada. July, 2011.
  
- 5.9 Public Health Agency of Canada. (2012, February 24) Routine Practices and Additional Precautions for Preventing the Transmission of Infection in Health Care - Draft.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)