

**NEOSHO COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
MARY GRIMES SCHOOL OF NURSING**

**Infection Control Policy**

The student nurse should take precautions to prevent injuries caused by accidental needle sticks and minimize the potential for occupational exposure to blood borne pathogens and other potentially infectious materials.

The infection prevention protocol is based on the "[Guidelines for Infection Control in Health Care Personnel](#)" by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Public Health Service, as published in U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Vol. 26, No. 3, and amendments or changes to said guidelines which are incorporated herein by reference.

All people should be considered potential carriers of hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C Virus (HCV), and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and other blood-borne pathogens. "Standard Precautions" should be used in care of all patients as well as all injection practice sessions in the learning lab. All practice patients are simulated patients with foam and plastic injection sites. Students are NOT to practice any invasive procedures on each other. The guidelines follow:

- 1) Gloves should be worn for touching blood, body fluids, mucous membranes, and non-intact skin of all patients; handling items or surfaces soiled with blood or body fluids, while performing venipuncture and other vascular access procedures.
- 2) Masks and protective eye wear or face shields should be worn during procedures that are likely to generate droplets of blood or other body fluids to prevent exposure of mucous membranes of the mouth, nose, and eyes.
- 3) Gowns or aprons should be worn during procedures that are likely to generate splashes of blood or other body fluids.
- 4) Hands and other skin surfaces should be washed thoroughly with soap and water immediately if contaminated with blood or other body fluids. Hand hygiene should be performed before and after direct patient care, between patients, immediately after gloves are removed, before handling invasive devices, and after touching contaminated items.
- 5) All student nurses who have exudative lesions or weeping dermatitis will refrain from all direct patient care and from handling patient-care equipment until the condition resolves.
- 6) All student nurses should take precautions to prevent injuries caused by needles, scalpels, and other sharp instruments or devices during procedures; when cleaning used instruments; during disposal of used needles; and when handling sharp instruments after procedures. To prevent needle stick injuries, needles should **not** be re-capped, purposely bent or broken by hand, removed from disposable syringes, or otherwise manipulated by hand. After they are used, disposable syringes and needles, scalpel blades, and other sharp items should be placed in a puncture-resistant container for disposal, large-bore reusable needles should be placed in a puncture-resistant container for transport to the reprocessing area.
- 7) The pregnant student nurse should be familiar with and strictly adhere to precautions to minimize the risk of HIV transmission. The pregnant student nurse is **not** known to be at greater risk of contracting HIV infection, however, the infant is at risk of infection from perinatal transmission.

## Learning Lab

### Use of Supplies

Each student will receive a lab kit at the start of their first nursing course. The student will **not** share equipment with others. Gloves are to be worn when administering injections or starting intravenous therapy. **During injection practice sessions, the student will not recap the needles but will initiate the device's safety mechanism.** Sharps or Needles will be discarded at the end of the learning lab session in Sharps containers. (Sharps containers are puncture resistant, rigid, molded plastic containers designed to provide danger-free, tamper-proof receptacles for contaminated syringes and needles.) The Sharps container will be disposed of according to CDC guidelines.

### Management of Exposures

If a student has an exposure to blood/body fluids the student will notify the clinical instructor of the incident and the agency policy for blood/body fluids exposure will be followed. Any exposure to blood/body fluids needs to be reported to the instructor. Agency and college incident reports will be filed as per protocol. The student will be responsible for any expense incurred as a result of such exposure.

Nursing Instructors will abide by the same protocol as the nursing students. As changes in policy are received from the Center for Disease Control, these changes will be incorporated in the nursing program's Infection Prevention Protocol and the NCCC Board of Trustees will be notified at their next scheduled monthly meeting.

Adopted. 091487

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