

TITLE:	INFECTION CONTROL-BLOOD BORNE PATHOGENS STANDARD PRECAUTIONS	POLICY 10.07
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PURPOSE:

This policy outlines the standard precautions to prevent the acquisition of blood borne infections.

SCOPE:

All Trouves employees, residents, volunteers and visitors.

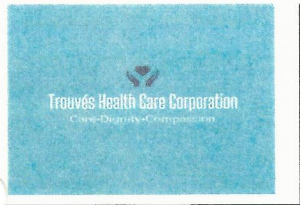
POLICY:

The facility policy is to utilize standard precautions to prevent the acquisition of blood borne infections (i.e., hepatitis (all types), AIDS, malaria, syphilis, etc.). Some carriers will not be identifiable using current technologies; therefore, the safest assumption is that all residents are potential carriers of blood-borne infections.

Blood is the single most important source of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B virus (HBV) and other blood-borne pathogens in the occupational setting. Standard precautions do not apply to feces, nasal secretions, sputum, sweat, tears, urine and vomit unless they contain visible blood. Some of the fluids represent a potential source of infection with other pathogens and the methods for prevention of transmission are addressed under other categories.

PROCEDURE:

1. All health care workers should routinely use appropriate precautions to prevent skin and mucous membrane exposure when contact with blood or body fluid of any resident is anticipated. Gloves should be worn for touching blood and body fluids, mucous membranes, or non-intact skin of all residents, for handling items or surfaces soiled with blood or body fluids and for performing any vascular access procedure. Gloves should be changed after contact with each resident. Masks and protective eyewear 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. Gowns or aprons should be worn during procedures that are likely to generate splashes of blood or other body fluids.
2. Hands and other skin surfaces should be washed immediately and thoroughly if contaminated with blood or other body fluids. Hands should be washed



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- immediately after gloves are removed.
3. All health care workers should take precautions to prevent injuries caused by:
 - a. Needles and other sharp instruments or devices during procedures.
 - b. When cleaning used instruments.
 - c. During disposal of used needles.
 - d. When handling sharp instruments after procedures.
 4. To prevent needle stick injuries, needles should not be recapped, purposely bent, broken by hand, removed from disposable syringes or otherwise manipulated by hand. After they are used, disposable syringes and needles and other sharp instruments should be placed in puncture resistant containers for disposal. The puncture resistant containers should be located as close as possible/practical to the use area.
 5. Although saliva has not been implicated in HIV transmission, to minimize the need for emergency mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, mouthpieces, resuscitation bags, or other ventilation devices should be available for use in areas in which the need for resuscitation is predictable.
 6. Health care workers who have lesions or weeping dermatitis should refrain from all direct resident care and from handling resident care equipment or belongings until the condition is resolved.

EXCEPTIONS:

No exceptions to this policy may be granted without the prior written approval of the Director.

SUPERCEDES:

None