

STANDARD PRECAUTIONS

Assume all blood and body substances are potentially infectious (whether from patients, visitors or staff) whether you know their infectious diseases status or not.

Apply Standard precautions to all contacts with **BLOOD, BODY SUBSTANCES, MUCOUS MEMBRANES** and **NON-INTACT SKIN**.

<p>Hand hygiene Wash hands after: touching blood or body fluids and immediately after removing gloves. Wash or use handgel between physical cares or handling contaminated items.</p>		<p>Gown/plastic apron Wear to protect skin and prevent soiling of clothing during procedures and care activities likely to generate splashes or sprays of blood.</p>	
<p>Mask, eye protection, face shield Worn to protect mucous membranes of eyes, nose and mouth during procedures and care activities likely to generate splashes or sprays of blood or body fluids.</p>		<p>Gloves Should be worn for touching blood, body fluids, mucous membranes, non intact skin and contaminated items.</p>	
<p>Care equipment Soiled care equipment should be handled in a way that prevents skin and mucous membrane exposure, contamination of clothing and transfer of micro-organisms to others and to the environment. . Reusable equipment must be cleaned and reprocessed before use in the care of others</p>		<p>Environment Clean toilets after use with alcohol wipe cloths. Clean up blood spills with paper towels then Virkon the area (in Delivery Suite Virkon the whole room). Line linen bag with a soluble alginate bag.</p>	 <p>Change the curtains if blood splattered For blood spills on carpeted areas blot up & contact the cleaning supervisor to arrange for carpet shampooing.</p>
<p>Sharps * DO NOT recap, remove, bend or break needles. ✓ Place sharps in a yellow sharps container.</p>		<p>Resuscitation Use mouthpieces, resuscitation bags or other ventilation devices to avoid mouth to mouth resuscitation.</p>	
<p>Care of baby For prophylactic care of the baby please refer to the appropriate policy eg; Vitamin K, BCG, Hepatitis B vaccination.</p>		<p>Placement Women who are unable to maintain their own hygiene should be placed in single rooms.</p>	