

Universal Precautions and/or Blood Borne Pathogens Model Policy

Infection Control Procedures

- a. **Washing/Disinfecting.** All staff shall wash hands or use hand disinfectant before and after every patient contact. Hands and other skin surfaces should be washed immediately and thoroughly if contaminated with blood or other body fluids.
- b. **Barrier Protection.** All staff should routinely use appropriate barrier precautions to prevent skin and mucous membrane exposure when contact with blood or other body fluids is anticipated.
 - **Gloves** should be worn for touching blood and body fluids, mucous membranes, or non-intact skin of all patients, for handling items or surfaces soiled with blood or body fluids, and for performing venipuncture and other vascular access procedures. Gloves should be changed after contact with each patient.
 - **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.
- c. **Sharps Containers.** Sharps container must be maintained in rooms where procedures using sharps are being performed. To prevent needlestick injuries, needles should not be recapped, purposely bent or broken by hand, removed from disposable syringes, or otherwise manipulated by hand. After sharps are used, they should be placed in puncture-resistant containers for disposal; the puncture-resistant containers should be located as close as practical to the use area.
- d. **Disinfection of equipment used in procedures.** Staff should be aware of the appropriate disinfection and sterilization procedures for their equipment. Those staff members who perform disinfection must be specifically trained in these procedures. This includes:
 - Disinfection for items such as surface EEG or EMG electrodes (specifically if skin abrasion is involved).
 - Sterilization for certain reusable equipment.
 - Surface electrodes that are used without prior abrading of the skin may be cleaned with soap and water.

The AANEM does not warrant that the above Policy will be suitable for a laboratory's particular purposes or comply with any local, state, and/or federal law. All laboratories should consider the special characteristics of their workplaces and adopt a policy to address any situations that require special attention.