

3.4 UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS POLICY

Overview

"Universal precautions" are steps we should take to protect ourselves when we come into contact with the blood or body fluids of other people. Universal precautions are intended to stop the spread of germs to others.

Most of the time, you can't tell if a person is infected with AIDS, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, or any number of other diseases. The best thing to do is treat the blood and body fluids of EVERY PERSON as POTENTIALLY infectious.

The blood-borne diseases most commonly transmitted are Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C and HIV. The viruses for these diseases can be transmitted through blood and through body fluids such as semen and vaginal secretions. Body fluids such as saliva, sweat, tears, urine, vomit or mucous, unless they are contaminated with blood, are not considered infectious. Viruses enter the body through breaks in the skin such as open sores or puncture wounds. They may also enter through the mucous membranes of the mouth, nose and eyes.

Policy

The Association supports the use of Universal Precautions as a method to provide simple and basic precautions against the transmission of disease. To assure a universal of practice, the Association directs all persons to follow the Universal Precautions Procedures.

The Association will:

- a) Maintain current Universal Precautions Procedures.
- b) Provide an orientation with regard to Universal Precautions Procedures to all employees and volunteers who are required to handle or may be exposed to blood and body fluids. Orientation will be provided by the Supervisor.
- c) Provide supplies and equipment needed to practice universal precautions. Disposable gloves and barrier masks will be provided to all employees and volunteers whose duties may involve contact with blood and body fluids.

Staff are expected to:

- a) Attend and participate in orientation provided on universal precautions.
- b) Follow the practices outlined in the Universal Precautions Procedures.