

	<b>POLICIES &amp; PROCEDURES</b> Number: <b>20-10</b> Title: <b>Standard Precautions</b>
<b>Authorization:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SHR Infection Prevention & Control Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Facility Board of Directors	Source: <b>Infection Prevention &amp; Control</b> Date Initiated: June 5, 2001 Date Reaffirmed: June, 2003 Date Revised: September, 2006 Scope: SHR Agencies & Affiliates

### **Introduction**

Standard precautions are interventions implemented to reduce the risk of transmission of microorganisms from patient to patient, patient to health care worker and health care worker to patient. Standard Precautions should be appropriate for the procedure being performed and the type of exposure anticipated. Standard Precautions were previously referred to as Universal Barrier Precautions. Standard Precautions do not differ in principle from routine practices used by Health Canada.

### **Policy**

1. Standard Precautions apply to all patients receiving care regardless of their diagnosis or presumed infection status.
2. Standard precautions apply to:
  - Blood.
  - All body fluids, secretions and excretions (except sweat) regardless of whether or not they contain visible blood.
  - Non-intact skin.
  - Mucous membranes.

### **Purpose**

1. Standard Precautions are designed to reduce the risk of transmission of microorganisms from both recognized and unrecognized sources of infection.

### **Procedure**

1. Standard Precautions encompass Hand Hygiene, Gloves, Masks, Gowns, Linen, Dishes, Patient Care Equipment, Patient Accommodation, Sharps, Waste, Spills, and Specimen Transport.
2. Policy/procedures governing each of these segments follow this policy/procedure.