

	POLICIES & PROCEDURES Number: 20-120 Title: Spills (Blood & Body Fluids)
Authorization: [4] SHR Infection Prevention & Control Committee [] Facility Board of Directors	Source: Infection Prevention & Control Date Initiated: June 5, 2001 Date Reaffirmed: December, 2006 Date Revised: November, 2007 Scope: SHR Agencies & Affiliates

Introduction

Studies have shown that Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is inactivated rapidly after being exposed to commonly used chemical germicides at concentrations much lower than those used in practice. Hepatitis B virus (HBV) is also inactivated by common chemical disinfectants, including some quaternary ammonium compounds.

Policy

1. Spills should be cleaned up immediately.

Purpose

1. To prevent transmission of infection.

Procedure

1. Appropriate personal protective equipment should be worn for cleaning up a spill. Gloves should be worn. If the possibility of splashing exists, a face shield and gown and shoe covers should be worn.
2. The blood spill area must be cleaned of organic matter (blood and body fluids) before disinfection of the area is effective. Excess blood and fluid must be removed with paper towels. Disinfectants are substantially inactivated by blood and other organic materials.
3. After the area is cleaned it should be decontaminated with a hospital disinfectant. The disinfectant should be left on for 10 minutes or left to air dry.
4. For spills containing large amounts of blood, first remove visible blood with absorbent material (ie: disposable paper towels) and discard into biohazardous waste container. Then clean and disinfect the area.

References:

1. Health Canada. Preventing the Transmission of Bloodborne Pathogens in Health Care and Public Services Settings, CCDC 1997, 23S3.

See Infection Prevention & Control Policy regarding Non Critical Patient Care Equipment - Cleaning and Disinfection.