

	POLICIES & PROCEDURES Number: 20-50 Title: Gowns
Authorization: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SHR Infection Prevention & Control Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Facility Board of Directors	Source: Infection Prevention & Control Date Initiated: June 5, 2001 Date Reaffirmed: June, 2003 Date Revised: October, 2006 Scope: SHR Agencies & Affiliates

Introduction

Long-sleeved gowns serve to protect the forearms and clothing of the health care worker (HCW) from splashing and soiling with body substances.

Policy

1. Health care workers will use Standard Precautions which require the use of appropriate personal protective equipment when direct contact with blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions, mucous membranes, non-intact skin and contaminated items is anticipated.

Purpose

1. To reduce the risk of transmission of disease-producing microorganisms from one individual to another.
2. To reduce the risk of exposure to blood, body fluids, mucous membranes, non-intact skin and contaminated environmental equipment.
3. To protect the wearer from harmful chemicals and disinfectants.

Procedure

1. Select a gown that is appropriate for the activity and amount of fluid likely to be encountered. Use fluid-resistant gowns or plastic aprons if soiling of clothes is likely.
2. Remove a soiled gown as promptly as possible.
3. Wear only once.
4. Perform hand hygiene immediately after removal of the gown to avoid transfer of microorganisms to other patients or environments.
5. For proper removal of gown, refer to Infection Prevention & Control Policy, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – Donning and Removal.

Reference:

1. Health Canada. *Infection control guidelines. Routine practices and additional precautions for preventing the transmission of infection in health care.* CDDR 1999;25S4:26,36,54,65,71.