EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN

POLICY:
Vanderbilt University Hospital endeavors to maintain a safe working environment and to eliminate or minimize employee exposure to occupational hazard, including bloodborne pathogens. Accordingly, all blood and other potentially infectious materials are treated as if known to be infectious for bloodborne pathogens in accordance with the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard. Appropriate precautions are observed with all patients to prevent occupational exposure to such materials. All employees observe these Standard Precautions.

PROCEDURES:

I. ENGINEERING AND WORK PRACTICE CONTROLS are used whenever feasible to eliminate or reduce the risk of occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials.

A. Hand washing is the most important factor in the prevention of nosocomial infections. Hands must be washed according to CDC guidelines with soap in water or an alcohol-based disinfecting agent.

B. Exposure to blood or body fluids – If skin surfaces are contaminated with blood or body fluids, the area is washed immediately and thoroughly with soap and water. If mucous membranes of the eye, mouth, or nose are contaminated with blood or potentially infectious fluids, the affected area is flushed immediately and thoroughly with water for 10-15 minutes. Never use bleach as a skin disinfectant.

If a garment is penetrated by blood or other potentially infectious material, the garment shall be removed immediately (or as soon as feasible) and handled according to uniform policy.

References: None