STANDARD PRECAUTIONS

STANDARD PRECAUTIONS are to be used for the care of ALL patients; they are designed to reduce the risk of transmission of microorganisms from both recognized and unrecognized sources of infection in hospitals and they apply to:

- Blood
- All body fluids, secretions, and excretions regardless of whether or not they contain visible blood
- Non-intact skin
- Mucous membranes.

Handwashing / Decontamination:
Wash/decontaminate hands after touching blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions and contaminated items, whether or not gloves are worn. Wash/decontaminate hands immediately after gloves are removed, between patient contacts and when otherwise indicated to avoid transfer of microorganisms to other patients and environments.

Gloves:
Wear gloves when touching blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions and contaminated items; put on clean gloves prior to touching mucous membranes and skin which may not be intact. Remove gloves promptly after use, before touching noncontaminated items and environmental surfaces, and before going to another patient, and wash hands immediately to avoid transfer of microorganism to other patients and environments.

Mask, Eye Protection, Face Shield:
Wear a mask and eye protection or a face shield to protect mucous membranes or the eyes, nose and mouth during procedures and patient care activities that are likely to generate splashes or sprays of blood, body fluids, secretions, and excretions.

Gowns:
Wear a gown to protect skin and prevent soiling of clothing during procedures and patient care activities that are likely to generate splashes or sprays of blood or other body fluids or cause soiling of clothing. Remove a soiled gown as promptly as possible and wash hands to avoid transfer of microorganism to other patients and environments.

Patient Care Equipment:
Handle used patient care equipment soiled with blood or body fluids in a manner that prevents skin and mucous membrane exposures, contamination of clothing, and transfer of microorganisms to other patients and environments. Ensure that reusable equipment is not used for the care of another patient until it has been appropriately cleaned and reprocessed and single use items are properly discarded.

Linen:
Handle, transport, and process used linen soiled with blood and other body fluids in a manner that prevents skin and mucous membrane exposures, contamination of clothing, and avoids transfer or microorganisms to other patients and environments.

Occupational Health and Bloodborne Pathogens:
Take care to prevent injuries when using needles, scalpels, and other sharp instruments during handling, cleaning or disposal. Never recap used needles or otherwise manipulate them using both hands, rather, use either a one handed "scoop" technique or a mechanical device designed for holding the needle sheath. Do not remove used needles from disposable syringes by hand, and do not bend, break, or otherwise manipulate used needles by hand. Place used disposable syringes and needles, scalpel blades, and other sharp items in appropriate sharps containers located as close as practical to the area.
where the sharps are used. Do not overfill sharps containers and be sure they are closed securely before disposal. Use mouthpieces, resuscitation bags, or other ventilation devices as an alternative to mouth-to-mouth resuscitation methods in areas where the need for resuscitation is predictable.

**Patient Placement:**
Place a patient who contaminates the environment or who does not, or cannot be expected to, assist in maintaining appropriate hygiene or environmental control in a private room. If one is not available, consult with the Infection Control department for other placement alternatives.