

BODY SUBSTANCE ISOLATION

Body Substance Isolation should be used for all patient contacts if the health care provider may be exposed to blood, or other body fluids. Body Substance Isolation assumes that all patients are carriers of infectious contagious diseases.

General recommendations

- ◆ Gloves should be worn when handling blood, body fluids, mucous membranes, non-intact skin, and body tissues. New gloves should be worn for each patient contact. Hands must be washed after glove removal.
- ◆ If a splash of blood or body fluid is anticipated, a full-face shield or goggles and a facemask should be worn.
- ◆ If emergency ventilatory support is necessary, a resuscitation mask should be used.
- ◆ Do not recap needles. Promptly place disposable sharps in a designated puncture resistant container.
- ◆ Place all soiled linen in a clear, plastic bag before sending it to the laundry.
- ◆ Use a solution of 1-part household bleach to 100 parts water to clean equipment, clean up spills, and decontaminate walls and other objects soiled with blood or body fluids.
- ◆ If your skin has a break, cut, abrasion, or dermatitis, use gloves and avoid any contact with blood or body fluids.
- ◆ Be vaccinated against Hepatitis B.
- ◆ Exposure to and possible contamination from blood or body fluids should be reported.

Since there is no reliable, immediate means to identify infected patients, pre-hospital care providers should be equally cautious when caring for all patients.