



Basic Infection Control And Prevention Plan for **Outpatient Oncology Settings**

National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases

Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion



Preamble

Background

An estimated 1.5 million new cases of cancer were diagnosed in the United States in 2010^[1]. With improvements in survivorship and the growth and aging of the U.S. population, the total number of persons living with cancer will continue to increase^[2]. Despite advances in oncology care, infections remain a major cause of morbidity and mortality among cancer patients^[3-5]. Increased risks for infection are attributed, in part, to immunosuppression caused by the underlying malignancy and chemotherapy. In addition patients with cancer come into frequent contact with healthcare settings and can be exposed to other patients in these settings with transmissible infections. Likewise, patients with cancer often require the placement of indwelling intravascular access devices or undergo surgical procedures that increase their risk for infectious complications. Given their vulnerable condition, great attention to infection prevention is warranted in the care of these patients.

In recent decades, the vast majority of oncology services have shifted to outpatient settings, such as

physician offices, hospital-based outpatient clinics, and nonhospital-based cancer centers. Currently, more than one million cancer patients receive outpatient chemotherapy or radiation therapy each year^[6]. Acute care hospitals continue to specialize in the treatment of many patients with cancer who are at increased risk for infection (e.g., hematopoietic stem cell transplant recipients, patients with febrile neutropenia), with programs and policies that promote adherence to infection control standards. In contrast, outpatient oncology facilities vary greatly in their attention to and oversight of infection control and prevention. This is reflected in a number of outbreaks of viral hepatitis and bacterial bloodstream infections that resulted from breaches in basic infection prevention practices (e.g., syringe reuse, mishandling of intravenous administration sets)^[7-10]. In some of these incidents, the implicated facility did not have written infection control policies and procedures for patient protection or regular access to infection prevention expertise.

Scope

A. Intent and Implementation

This document has been developed for outpatient oncology facilities to serve as a model for a basic infection control and prevention plan. It contains policies and procedures tailored to these settings to meet minimal expectations of patient protections as described in the CDC Guide to Infection Prevention in Outpatient Settings (available: <http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/settings/outpatient/outpatient-care-guidelines.html>). The elements in this document are based on CDC's evidence-based guidelines and guidelines from professional societies (e.g., Oncology Nursing Society).

This plan is intended to be used by all outpatient oncology facilities. Those facilities that do not have an existing plan should use this plan as a starting point to develop a facility-specific plan that will be updated and further supplemented as needed based on the types of services provided. Facilities that have a plan should ensure that their current infection prevention policies and procedures include the elements outlined in this document. While this plan may essentially be used exactly "as is," facilities are encouraged to personalize the plan to make it more relevant to their setting (e.g., adding facility name and names of specific rooms/locations; inserting titles/positions of designated personnel; and providing detailed instructions where applicable).

This plan does not replace the need for an outpatient oncology facility to have regular access to an individual with training in infection prevention and for that individual to perform on-site evaluation and to directly observe

and interact regularly with staff. Facilities may wish to consult with an individual with training and expertise in infection prevention early on to assist with their infection control plan development and implementation and to ensure that facility design and work flow is conducive to optimal infection prevention practices.

B. Aspects of Care That Are Beyond the Scope of This Plan

This model plan focuses on the core measures to prevent the spread of infectious diseases in outpatient oncology settings. It is not intended to address facility-specific issues or other aspects of patient care such as:

- Infection prevention issues that are unique to blood and marrow transplant centers (a.k.a. bone marrow transplant or stem cell transplant centers)
- Occupational health requirements, including recommended personal protective equipment for handling antineoplastic and hazardous drugs as outlined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the National Institute for Occupational Safety
- Appropriate preparation and handling (e.g., reconstituting, mixing, diluting, compounding) of sterile medications, including antineoplastic agents
- Clinical recommendations and guidance on appropriate antimicrobial prescribing practices and the assessment of neutropenia risk in patients undergoing chemotherapy

For more information on these topics, refer to the list of resources provided in Appendix D of the plan.

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- ⁸ Watson JT, Jones RC, Siston AM, Fernandez JR, Martin K, Beck E, et al. Outbreak of catheter-associated *Klebsiella oxytoca* and *Enterobacter cloacae* bloodstream infections in an oncology chemotherapy center. *Arch Intern Med* 2005;165:2639-43.
- ⁹ Greeley RD, Semple S, Thompson ND, High P, Rudowski E, Handschur E et al. Hepatitis B outbreak associated with a hematology-oncology office practice in New Jersey, 2009. *Am J Infect Control* 2011 Jun 8. Epub ahead of print.
- ¹⁰ Herndon E. Rose Cancer Center shut down; patients advised to get screening. *Enterprise-Journal*. July 31, 2011. Available at: http://www.enterprise-journal.com/news/article_58190090-bbb5-11e0-b99d-001cc4c03286.html Accessed September 9, 2011.

Infection Prevention Plan

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List of Abbreviations

ANC	Absolute neutrophil count	HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
APIC	Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc.	IDSA	Infectious Diseases Society of America
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	INS	Infusion Nursing Society
DEA	Drug Enforcement Administration	ONS	Oncology Nursing Society
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
FDA	Food and Drug Administration	NIOSH	National Institute for Occupational Safety
HAI	Healthcare-associated infection	PPE	Personal protective equipment
HBV	Hepatitis B virus	SHEA	Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
HCV	Hepatitis C virus	USP	United States Pharmacopeia
		WHO	World Health Organization

I. Fundamental Principles of Infection Prevention

Standard Precautions

Standard Precautions represent the minimum infection prevention measures that apply to all patient care, regardless of suspected or confirmed infection status of the patient, in any setting where healthcare is delivered. These evidence-based practices are designed to both protect healthcare personnel and prevent the spread of infections among patients. Standard Precautions replaces earlier guidance relating to Universal Precautions and Body Substance Isolation. Standard Precautions include: 1) hand hygiene, 2) use of personal protective equipment (e.g., gloves, gowns, facemasks), depending on the anticipated exposure, 3) respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette, 4) safe injection practices, and 5) safe handling of potentially contaminated equipment or surfaces in the patient environment.

Transmission-Based Precautions

Transmission-Based Precautions are intended to supplement Standard Precautions in patients with known or suspected colonization or infection of highly transmissible or epidemiologically important pathogens. These additional precautions are used when the route of transmission is not completely interrupted using Standard Precautions. The three categories of Transmission-Based Precautions include: 1) Contact

Precautions, 2) Droplet Precautions, and 3) Airborne Precautions. For diseases that have multiple routes of transmission, a combination of Transmission-Based Precautions may be used. Whether used singly or in combination, they are always used in addition to Standard Precautions.

The risk of infection transmission and the ability to implement elements of Transmission-Based Precautions may differ between outpatient and inpatient settings (e.g., facility design characteristics). However, because patients with infections are routinely encountered in outpatient settings, ambulatory care facilities need to develop specific strategies to control the spread of transmissible diseases pertinent to their setting. This includes developing and implementing systems for early detection and management of potentially infectious patients at initial points of entry to the facility.

For detailed information on Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions, and summary guidance for outpatient settings, refer to the following documents:

[CDC Guide to Infection Prevention in Outpatient Settings \(available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/settings/outpatient/outpatient-care-guidelines.html>\)](http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/settings/outpatient/outpatient-care-guidelines.html)

[CDC 2007 Guideline for Isolation Precautions \(available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/isolation/Isolation2007.pdf>\)](http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/isolation/Isolation2007.pdf)

II. Education and Training

Ongoing education and training of facility staff are required to maintain competency and ensure that infection prevention policies and procedures are understood and followed. A list of names of designated personnel and their specific roles and tasks and contact information is provided in Appendix A.

1. Education and Training

- All facility staff, including contract personnel (e.g., environmental services workers from an outside agency) are educated and trained by designated personnel regarding:
 - Proper selection and use of PPE
 - Job- or task-specific infection prevention practices

- Personnel providing training have demonstrated and maintained competency related to the specific jobs or tasks for which they are providing instruction
- Training is provided at orientation, repeated at least annually and anytime policies or procedures are updated, and is documented as per facility policy

2. Competency Evaluations

- Competency of facility staff is documented initially and repeatedly, as appropriate for the specific job or task
- Regular audits of facility staff adherence to infection prevention practices (e.g., hand hygiene, environmental cleaning) are performed by designated personnel

III. Surveillance and Reporting

Routine performance of surveillance activities is important to case-finding, outbreak detection, and improvement of healthcare practices. This includes the surveillance of infections associated with the care provided by the facility (defined as healthcare-associated infections) and process measures related to infection prevention practices (e.g., hand hygiene).

1. HAI Surveillance

- Standard definitions are developed for specific HAIs under surveillance (e.g., central-line associated bloodstream infections)

- Designated personnel collect, manage, and analyze relevant data
- Surveillance reports are prepared and distributed periodically to appropriate personnel for any necessary follow-up actions (e.g., high incidence of certain HAIs may prompt auditing of specific procedures or a thorough infection control assessment)

2. Disease Reporting

- Facility staff adhere to local, state and federal requirements for reportable diseases and outbreak reporting [see Appendix B].

IV. Standard Precautions

A. Hand Hygiene

Hand hygiene procedures include the use of alcohol-based hand rubs (containing 60-95% alcohol) and handwashing with soap and water. Alcohol-based hand rub is the preferred method for decontaminating hands, except when hands are visibly soiled (e.g., dirt, blood, body fluids), or after caring for patients with known or suspected infectious diarrhea (e.g., *Clostridium difficile*, norovirus), in which case soap and water should be used. Hand hygiene stations should be strategically placed to ensure easy access.

1. Sample Procedures for Performing Hand Hygiene

Using Alcohol-based Hand Rub (follow manufacturer's directions):

- Dispense the recommended volume of product
- Apply product to the palm of one hand
- Rub hands together, covering all surfaces of hands and fingers until they are dry (no rinsing is required)

Handwashing with Soap and Water:

- Wet hands first with water (avoid using hot water)
- Apply soap to hands
- Rub hands vigorously for at least 15 seconds, covering all surfaces of hands and fingers

- Rinse hands with water and dry thoroughly with paper towel
- Use paper towel to turn off water faucet

2. Indications for Hand Hygiene

Always perform hand hygiene in the following situations:

- Before touching a patient, even if gloves will be worn
- Before exiting the patient's care area after touching the patient or the patient's immediate environment
- After contact with blood, body fluids or excretions, or wound dressings
- Prior to performing an aseptic task (e.g., accessing a port, preparing an injection)
- If hands will be moving from a contaminated-body site to a clean-body site during patient care
- After glove removal

CDC Guideline for Hand Hygiene in Health-Care Settings (available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5116.pdf>)

WHO Guidelines on Hand Hygiene in Healthcare 2009 (available at: http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2009/9789241597906_eng.pdf)

B. Personal Protective Equipment

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) use involves specialized clothing or equipment worn by facility staff for protection against infectious materials. The selection of PPE is based on the nature of the patient interaction and potential for exposure to blood, body fluids or infectious agents. A review of available PPE should be performed periodically (e.g., annually) due to new product developments and improvements. Please note that this section does not address issues related to PPE for the preparation and handling of antineoplastic and hazardous drugs. The recommended PPE for those procedures should be determined in accordance with OSHA and NIOSH.

1. Use of PPE

Gloves

Wear gloves when there is potential contact with blood (e.g., during phlebotomy), body fluids, mucous membranes, nonintact skin or contaminated equipment.

- Wear gloves that fit appropriately (select gloves according to hand size)
- Do not wear the same pair of gloves for the care of more than one patient
- Do not wash gloves for the purpose of reuse
- Perform hand hygiene before and immediately after removing gloves

Gowns

Wear a gown to protect skin and clothing during procedures or activities where contact with blood or body fluids is anticipated.

- Do not wear the same gown for the care of more than one patient
- Remove gown and perform hand hygiene before leaving the patient's environment (e.g., exam room)

Facemasks (Procedure or Surgical Masks)

Wear a facemask:

- When there is potential contact with respiratory secretions and sprays of blood or body fluids (as defined in Standard Precautions and/or Droplet Precautions)
 - May be used in combination with goggles or face shield to protect the mouth, nose and eyes
- When placing a catheter or injecting material into the spinal canal or subdural space (to protect patients from exposure to infectious agents carried in the mouth or nose of healthcare personnel)
 - Wear a facemask to perform intrathecal chemotherapy

Goggles, Face Shields

Wear eye protection for potential splash or spray of blood, respiratory secretions, or other body fluids.

- Personal eyeglasses and contact lenses are not con-

sidered adequate eye protection

- May use goggles with facemasks, or face shield alone, to protect the mouth, nose and eyes

Respirators

If available, wear N95-or higher respirators for potential exposure to infectious agents transmitted via the airborne route (e.g., tuberculosis).

- All healthcare personnel that use N95-or higher respirator are fit tested at least annually and according to OSHA requirements

2. Recommendations for Donning PPE

- Always perform hand hygiene before donning PPE
- If wearing a gown, don the gown first and fasten in back accordingly
- If wearing a facemask or respirator:
 - Secure ties or elastic band at the back of the head and/or neck
 - Fit flexible band to nose bridge
 - Fit snug to face and below chin
- If wearing goggles or face shield, put it on face and adjust to fit
- If wearing gloves in combination with other PPE, don gloves last

3. Recommendations for Removing PPE

- Remove PPE before leaving the exam room or patient environment (except respirators which should be removed after exiting the room)
- Removal of gloves:
 - Grasp outside of glove with opposite gloved hand; peel off
 - Hold removed glove in glove hand
 - Slide ungloved fingers under the remaining glove at the wrist; peel off and discard
- Removal of gowns:
 - Remove in such a way to prevent contamination of clothing or skin
 - Turn contaminated outside surface toward the inside
 - Roll or fold into a bundle and discard
- Removal of facemask or respirator
 - Avoid touching the front of the mask or respirator
 - Grasp the bottom and the ties/elastic to remove and discard
- Removal of goggles or face shield
 - Avoid touching the front of the goggles or face shield
 - Remove by handling the head band or ear pieces and discard
- Always perform hand hygiene immediately after removing PPE

CDC 2007 Guideline for Isolation Precautions (available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/isolation/Isolation2007.pdf>)

CDC's tools for personal protective equipment (available: <http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/prevent/ppe.html>)

C. Respiratory Hygiene and Cough Etiquette

To prevent the transmission of respiratory infections in the facility, the following infection prevention measures are implemented for all potentially infected persons at the point of entry and continuing throughout the duration of the visit. This applies to any person (e.g., patients and accompanying family members, caregivers, and visitors) with signs and symptoms of respiratory illness, including cough, congestion, rhinorrhea, or increased production of respiratory secretions. Additional precautions (e.g., Transmission-Based Precautions) can be found in Section V.

1. Identifying Persons with Potential Respiratory Infection

- Facility staff remain alert for any persons arriving with symptoms of a respiratory infection
- Signs are posted at the reception area instructing patients and accompanying persons to:
 - Self-report symptoms of a respiratory infection during registration
 - Practice respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette (technique described below) and wear facemask as needed

2. Availability of Supplies

The following supplies are provided in the reception area and other common waiting areas:

- Facemasks, tissues, and no-touch waste receptacles for disposing of used tissues
- Dispensers of alcohol-based hand rub

3. Respiratory Hygiene and Cough Etiquette

All persons with signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection (including facility staff) are instructed to:

- Cover the mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing;
- Dispose of the used tissue in the nearest waste receptacle
- Perform hand hygiene after contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects/materials

4. Masking and Separation of Persons with Respiratory Symptoms

If patient calls ahead:

- Have patients with symptoms of a respiratory infection come at a time when the facility is less crowded or through a separate entrance, if available
- If the purpose of the visit is non-urgent, patients are encouraged to reschedule the appointment until symptoms have resolved
- Upon entry to the facility, patients are to be instructed to don a facemask (e.g., procedure or surgical mask)
- Alert registration staff ahead of time to place the patient in an exam room with a closed door upon arrival

If identified after arrival:

- Provide facemasks to all persons (including persons accompanying patients) who are coughing and have symptoms of a respiratory infection
- Place the coughing patient in an exam room with a closed door as soon as possible (if suspicious for airborne transmission, refer to Airborne Precautions in Section V.D.); if an exam room is not available, the patient should sit as far from other patients as possible in the waiting room
- Accompanying persons who have symptoms of a respiratory infection should not enter patient-care areas and are encouraged to wait outside the facility

5. Healthcare Personnel Responsibilities

- Healthcare personnel observe Droplet Precautions (refer to Section V.C.), in addition to Standard Precautions, when examining and caring for patients with signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection (if suspicious for an infectious agent spread by airborne route, refer to Airborne Precautions in Section V.D.)
- These precautions are maintained until it is determined that the cause of the symptoms is not an infectious agent that requires Droplet or Airborne Precautions
- All healthcare personnel are aware of facility sick leave policies, including staff who are not directly employed by the facility but provide essential daily services
- Healthcare personnel with a respiratory infection avoid direct patient contact; if this is not possible, then a facemask should be worn while providing patient care and frequent hand hygiene should be reinforced
- Healthcare personnel are up-to-date with all recommended vaccinations, including annual influenza vaccine

6. Staff Communication

- Designated personnel regularly review information on local respiratory virus activity provided by the health department and CDC to determine if the facility will need to implement enhanced screening for respiratory symptoms as outlined in step 7

7. During Periods of Increased Community Respiratory Virus Activity (e.g., Influenza Season)

In addition to the aforementioned infection prevention measures, the following enhanced screening measures are implemented:

- When scheduling and/or confirming appointments:
 - Pre-screen all patients and schedule those with respiratory symptoms to come when the facility might be less crowded, if possible
 - Instruct patients with respiratory symptoms to don a facemask upon entry to the facility

- If the purpose of the visit is non-urgent, patients with symptoms of respiratory infection are encouraged to schedule an appointment after symptoms have resolved
- Encourage family members, caregivers, and visitors with symptoms of respiratory infection to not accompany patients during their visits to the facility
 - If possible, prepare in advance for the registration staff a daily list of patients with respiratory symptoms who are scheduled for a visit
- Upon entry to the facility and during visit:
 - At the time of patient registration, facility staff identify pre-screened patients (from the list) and screen all other patients and accompanying persons for symptoms of respiratory infection
 - Patients identified with respiratory symptoms are placed in a private exam room as soon as possible; if an exam room is not available, patients are provided a facemask and placed in a separate area as far as possible from other patients while awaiting care
 - If patient volume is anticipated to be higher than usual with prolonged wait time at registration:
 - i. A separate triage station is established to identify pre-screened patients (from the list) and to screen all other patients and accompanying persons immediately upon their arrival and prior to registration
 - ii. Patients identified with respiratory symptoms are registered in a separate area, if possible, and placed immediately in a private exam room; if an exam room is not available, patients are provided a facemask and placed in a separate area as far as possible from other patients while awaiting care
- If possible, encourage family members, caregivers, and visitors with symptoms of respiratory infection to not enter the facility

CDC 2007 Guideline for Isolation Precautions (available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/isolation/Isolation2007.pdf>)

CDC recommendations for preventing the spread of influenza in healthcare settings (available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/healthcaresettings.htm>)

CDC's Flu Activity & Surveillance (available at: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivitysurv.htm)

D. Injection Safety

Injection safety refers to the proper use and handling of supplies for administering injections and infusions (e.g., syringes, needles, fingerstick devices, intravenous tubing, medication vials, and parenteral solutions). These practices are intended to prevent transmission of infectious diseases between one patient and another, or between a patient and healthcare personnel during preparation and administration of parenteral medications.

To the extent possible, medication preparation should take place in pharmacy settings and dedicated medication rooms. All staff personnel who use or handle parenteral medications and related supplies should be aware of labeling and storage requirements and pharmacy standards. Additional recommendations for safe injection practices, including the appropriate use of single-dose (or single-use) and multi-dose vials and the proper technique for accessing intravascular devices, can be found in Section IV.E. (Medication Storage and Handling), in Section VI (Central Venous Catheters), respectively, as well as in Appendix D.

1. General Safe Injection Practices

- Use aseptic technique when preparing and administering chemotherapy infusions or other parenteral medications (e.g., antiemetics, diphenhydramine, dexamethasone)
- Whenever possible, use commercially manufactured or pharmacy-prepared prefilled syringes (e.g., saline and heparin)
- Avoid prefilling and storing batch-prepared syringes

except in accordance with pharmacy standards

- Avoid unwrapping syringes prior to the time of use
- Never administer medications from the same syringe to multiple patients, even if the needle is changed or the injection is administered through an intervening length of intravenous tubing
- Do not reuse a syringe to enter a medication vial or solution
- Do not administer medications from single-dose or single-use vials, ampoules, or bags or bottles of intravenous solution to more than one patient (e.g., do not use a bag of saline as a common source supply for multiple patients)
- Cleanse the access diaphragms of medication vials with 70% alcohol and allow the alcohol to dry before inserting a device into the vial
- Dedicate multi-dose vials to a single patient whenever possible. If multi-dose vials must be used for more than one patient, they are restricted to a dedicated medication preparation area and should not enter the immediate patient treatment area (e.g., exam room, chemotherapy suite)
- Dispose of used syringes and needles at the point of use in a sharps container that is closable, puncture-resistant, and leak-proof
- Do not use fluid infusion or administration sets (e.g., intravenous tubing) for more than one patient
- Use single-use, disposable fingerstick devices (e.g., lancets) to obtain samples for checking a patient's blood glucose, PT/INR, etc. and dispose of them after each use; do not use a lancet holder or penlet

device for this purpose

- Adhere to federal and state requirements for protection of healthcare personnel from exposure to bloodborne pathogens

2. Spinal Injection Procedures

- Use aseptic technique and follow safe injection practices (e.g., dedicating single-dose vials to single-patient use)
- At a minimum, wear a facemask (e.g., procedure or surgical masks) and sterile gloves when injecting material or inserting a catheter into the epidural or subdural space (e.g., administration of intrathecal chemotherapy)
- For other spinal procedures (e.g., diagnostic and therapeutic lumbar punctures) or handling of devices to access the cerebrospinal fluid (e.g., Ommaya reservoir):
 - At a minimum, use aseptic technique and follow safe injection practices
 - Facemask can be considered as an additional precaution

3. Phlebotomy Procedures

- Phlebotomy procedures are performed in a dedicated area, if possible
- If the procedure has to be done elsewhere (e.g., exam room, chemotherapy suite), do not bring com-

mon trays of supplies for phlebotomy or intravenous device access to the patient's immediate treatment area; bring only the necessary supplies to the patient side

- Hand hygiene stations (e.g., alcohol-based hand rub dispensers) are readily accessible to the phlebotomist
- Use aseptic technique to perform the phlebotomy procedure
- Do not reuse vacutainer holders
- Sharps containers are strategically placed near the phlebotomist to ensure easy access and safe disposal of used supplies
- Minimize environmental contamination by performing the following:
 - Label tubes before blood is drawn
 - Avoid placing tubes on patient charts or other items or surfaces that cannot be properly cleaned
 - Do not process or store blood specimens near medications or medication preparation area

CDC 2007 Guideline for Isolation Precautions (available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/isolation/Isolation2007.pdf>)

CDC Clinical Reminder: Spinal Injection Procedures Performed without a Facemask Pose Risk for Bacterial Meningitis (available at: http://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/PDF/Clinical_Reminder_Spinal-Infection_Meningitis.pdf)

E. Medication Storage and Handling

The measures outlined in this section pertain to the general storage and handling of parenteral medications outside of the pharmacy setting. The appropriate storage and handling (e.g., reconstituting, mixing, diluting, compounding) of antineoplastic drugs and other sterile medications that typically require preparation in pharmacy settings should be determined in accordance with established official and enforceable standards for these activities (e.g., ensuring appropriate environmental and engineering controls such as biological safety cabinets and laminar airflow hoods, and proper use of aseptic technique), including those of the United States Pharmacopeia and the Food and Drug Administration. These functions are performed by personnel who have the appropriate qualifications and training as determined in accordance with the state pharmacy board. Consultation with the state pharmacy board and oncology pharmacy specialists is recommended.

In general, parenteral medication storage, handling, and administration should adhere to injection safety measures as outlined in Section IV.D. (Injection Safety). Parenteral medications include single-dose and multi-dose vials, ampoules, bags or bottles of intravenous fluids.

Single-dose vials (or single-use vials) are intended for use in a single patient for a single case/procedure/injection. Single-dose or single-use vials are labeled as such by the manufacturer and typically lack an antimicrobial preservative.

Multi-dose vials contain more than one dose of medication. They are labeled as such by the manufacturer and typically contain an antimicrobial preservative to help prevent the growth of bacteria. However, this preservative has no effect on viruses and does not fully protect against contamination when safe injection practices are not followed.

1. Medication Storage

- Store all medications (e.g., injectable hormonal agents) in accordance with manufacturer's instructions (e.g., shelf-life, temperature)
- Use of freezers/refrigerators
 - Store medications that require refrigeration in a dedicated, labeled refrigerator that meets requirements for such storage (e.g., thermostat control, separate exterior door for refrigerator and freezer compartments)
 - Designated personnel maintain temperature log (monitor temperature at least twice daily for

vaccine storage) and ensure alternative storage method is in place in the event of power or refrigerator failure

- Multi-dose vials are stored in the Medication Room and not in the immediate patient treatment area (e.g., exam room, chemotherapy suite)

2. Medication Preparation

- Draw up medications in the Medication Room or in a designated clean area that is free of any items potentially contaminated with blood or body fluids (e.g., used equipment such as syringes, needles, IV tubing, blood collection tubes, and needle holders)
- Note: Multi-dose vials should not be accessed in the immediate patient treatment area (e.g., exam room, chemotherapy suite); if a multi-dose vial enters the immediate patient-care area, it should be dedicated to that patient and discarded after use
- Note: Bags or bottles of intravenous solution (e.g., bag of saline) should not be used for more than one patient
- Use an aseptic technique to access parenteral medications:
 - Perform hand hygiene before handling the medication
 - Disinfect the rubber septum with alcohol and allow the alcohol to dry prior to piercing
 - Always use a new sterile syringe and sterile needle to draw up the medication; be careful to avoid contact with the non-sterile environment during the process
 - Never leave a needle inserted into the septum of a medication vial for multiple draws
 - Ensure that any device inserted into the sep-

tum (e.g., chemotherapy dispensing pins) are used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and they do not compromise the integrity of the remaining vial contents

- Minimize multiple entries into bags of fluid to add medications; if more than one entry is required, always use a new sterile syringe and sterile needle and access the bag using aseptic technique

3. When to Discard Medications

- Medications should always be discarded according to the manufacturer's expiration date (even if not opened) and whenever sterility is compromised or questionable
- For single-dose vials that have been opened or accessed (e.g., needle-puncture), the vial should be discarded according to the time the manufacturer specifies for the opened vial or at the end of the case/procedure for which it is being used, whichever comes first. It should not be stored for future use.
- For multidose vials that have been opened or accessed (e.g., needle-punctured), the vials should be dated and discarded within 28 days unless the manufacturer specifies a different (shorter or longer) date for that opened vial

CDC 2007 Guideline for Isolation Precautions (available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/isolation/Isolation2007.pdf>)

CDC FAQs Regarding Safe Practices for Medical Injections (available at: http://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/providers/provider_faqs.html)

CDC Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit (available at: <http://www2a.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/shtoolkit/>)

F. Cleaning and Disinfection of Devices and Environmental Surfaces

The procedures outlined in this section pertain to the cleaning and disinfection of noncritical patient-care devices (e.g., blood pressure cuff) and environmental surfaces in patient-care areas (e.g., exam rooms) and certain common-use areas (e.g., bathrooms).

Standard procedures and recommended practices for cleaning and disinfecting compounding areas (e.g., pharmacy settings) and the handling, transporting, and disposing of antineoplastic agents should be determined in accordance with local, state, and federal authorities, including state board of pharmacy, USP, FDA, and DEA.

1. Designated Personnel

- Responsibilities for cleaning and disinfection of environmental surfaces and medical equipment are assigned to specific personnel (as indicated in Appendix B)
 - If Environmental Services are only available after-hours (e.g., contractors from outside agency), then designated facility staff are assigned spe-

cific responsibilities for cleaning and disinfection during clinic hours

- All assigned personnel are trained in the appropriate cleaning/disinfection procedures and the proper use of PPE and cleaning products

2. Supplies and Cleaning Products

- Designated personnel regularly restock necessary supplies (e.g., gloves, gowns, facemasks) and replenish dispensers of alcohol-based hand rub and soap throughout the facility
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for cleaning surfaces and noncritical devices; ensure that the cleaning product used is compatible with the surface/device being cleaned
- Use EPA-registered disinfectant with appropriate germicidal claim for the infective agent of concern (may vary depending on situation) and follow the manufacturer's safety precautions and instructions (e.g., amount, dilution, safe use, storage and dispos-

- al) for cleaning/disinfection
- Products and supplies are reviewed periodically (e.g., annually) due to product developments and improvements and to ensure that the materials used are consistent with existing guidelines and meet the needs of the staff
- If reusable mops and cleaning cloths are used, these are cleaned after use and allowed to dry before reuse

3. Frequency of Cleaning

Patient-care areas, medication preparation areas (outside pharmacy/compounding areas), and bathrooms are cleaned *at least daily*, with the following exceptions:

- Promptly clean and decontaminate any location with spills of blood and other potentially infectious materials (refer to step 7 below)
- Clean medication preparation areas when visibly soiled; if medication preparation takes place in the patient treatment area (outside a designated medication room), clean this area after each patient encounter:
 - Ensure the medication preparation area is free of any items contaminated with blood or body fluids (e.g., used equipment such as syringes, needles, IV tubing, blood collection tubes, and needle holders)
- Disinfect bathrooms after use by a patient with known or suspected infectious diarrhea and before use by another person (refer to step 5 below)
- Disinfect environmental surfaces and noncritical patient-care devices when visibly soiled
- Disinfect environmental surfaces and noncritical patient-care devices in between patient use if:
 - There was direct contact to non-intact skin or mucous membrane or potential contamination with body fluids (e.g., blood, secretions)
 - The patient-care device involves a blood glucose meter or other point of care testing device (e.g., PT/INR readers) that utilizes blood samples; to prevent bloodborne pathogen transmission, these devices must be cleaned and disinfected after each use in accordance with manufacturer's instructions

4. Cleaning Patient-Care Areas

General cleaning and disinfection measures that apply to any patient-care area:

- Wear appropriate PPE
- In general, cleaning should be performed before disinfection unless a one-step detergent disinfectant is used
- Wet-dust horizontal surfaces by moistening a cloth with a small amount of an EPA-registered disinfectant
- Avoid dusting methods that disperse dust (e.g., feather-dusting)
- Concentrate on cleaning high-touch surfaces (areas frequently touched by patients and facility staff) and those in close proximity to the patient, as outlined below for specific rooms/areas

- Follow manufacturer's instructions for cleaning and maintaining noncritical medical device/equipment
- Clean walls, blinds, and window curtains when they are visibly dusty or soiled

Cleaning and disinfection measures for specific patient-care areas:

Exam Rooms

- Change the paper covering the exam table and pillows between patient use
- Place any used linens (e.g., exam gowns, sheets) in a designated container located in each exam room after each patient use; refer to step 8 below for laundering soiled linens
- Clean any medication preparation area after each patient encounter and ensure contaminated items (as described above) are not placed in or near the area
- Focus cleaning on high-touch surfaces (at least daily), e.g., exam bed, bedrails, blood pressure cuff, stethoscope, wall-mounted ophthalmoscope and otoscope (per manufacturer's instructions), chair and bedside stool, and door knob
- Decontaminate high-touch surfaces using an EPA-registered disinfectant with specific claim labels for the infective agent
 - If patient has suspected infectious diarrhea and the infective agent is unknown, clean high-touch surfaces using a sodium hypochlorite (bleach)-based product (e.g., 1:10 dilution prepared fresh)

Chemotherapy Suites

- Clean patient chair, IV poles/pumps, and side table between each patient use
- Clean any medication preparation area after each patient encounter and ensure contaminated items (as described above) are not placed in or near the area

Triage Stations and/or Locations for Performing Vital Signs (if not done in exam rooms)

- Focus cleaning on high-touch surfaces (at least daily): patient chair, blood pressure cuff, pulse oximetry sensors (follow manufacturer's instructions), thermometers (if disposable oral temperature probes are used, they should be discarded after each use)

Phlebotomy Stations

- Focus cleaning on high-touch surfaces (at least daily): patient chair and arm rest, procedure table
- Promptly clean and disinfect surfaces contaminated by blood using an EPA-registered disinfectant with specific label claims for bloodborne pathogens (e.g., HIV, HBV, HCV); refer to step 7 for cleaning spills of blood

5. Cleaning Bathrooms

- Wear appropriate PPE
- Clean the toilet, the area around the toilet, the sink,

and faucet handles at least daily, and the walls if visibly soiled

- If used by a patient with known or suspected infectious diarrhea, clean the bathroom before it is used again, focusing on the toilet and the area around the toilet:
 - Use an EPA-registered disinfectant with specific claim labels for the infective agent
 - If infective agent is unknown, use a bleach-based disinfectant (e.g., 1:10 dilution prepared fresh)

6. Cleaning Medication Rooms (excluding pharmacy settings or locations where sterile compounding is performed; for these locations, refer to the state pharmacy board and USP recommendations)

- Wear appropriate PPE
- Clean the countertops and surfaces where medication preparation occurs at least daily and when visibly soiled
- Ensure contaminated items (as described above) are not placed in or near the medication preparation area
- Refrigerators for storing medications are cleaned at defined intervals and when soiled, in accordance with manufacturer's instructions

7. Cleaning Spills of Blood and Body Substances

- Wear protective gloves and use appropriate PPE (e.g., use forceps to pick up any sharps and discard in sharps container)
- If the spill contains large amounts of blood or body fluids (e.g., >10 mL), clean the visible matter with disposable absorbent material and discard in appropriate containers for biohazardous waste
- Decontaminate the area using an EPA-registered disinfectant with specific label claims for blood-borne pathogens (e.g., HIV, HBV, HCV) or a freshly diluted bleach-based product (preferably EPA-registered), in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, and allow the surface to dry
- If a bleach-based product is used:
 - Use a 1:100 dilution to decontaminate nonporous surfaces
 - If the spill involves large amounts of blood or body fluids, use a 1:10 dilution for first application of germicide *before cleaning*, then followed by cleaning and subsequent decontamination with 1:100 dilution application

8. Handling and Laundering Soiled Linens

- Handle all contaminated linens with minimum agitation to avoid contamination of air, surfaces, and persons
- Do not sort or rinse soiled linens in patient-care areas
- Use leak-resistant containment for linens contaminated with blood or body substances; ensure that there is not leakage during transport
- If laundry chutes are used, ensure that laundry bags are closed before tossing the filled bag into the

chute; do not place loose items in the laundry chute

- In the laundry area, appropriate PPE (e.g., gloves) are worn by laundry personnel while sorting soiled linen, and hand hygiene supplies are available for their use
- If laundry equipment is available on premise, use and maintain the equipment according to manufacturer's instructions
 - In general, If hot-water laundry cycles are used, wash with detergent in water $\geq 160^{\circ}\text{F}$ ($\geq 71^{\circ}\text{C}$) for ≥ 25 minutes
 - If low-temperature ($< 160^{\circ}\text{F}$ [$< 70^{\circ}\text{C}$]) laundry cycles are used, wash with proper concentrations of laundry chemicals that are suitable for low-temperature washing
- If commercial laundry facilities are used, ensure that their laundering process is in accordance with current recommendations

9. Waste Disposal

- Puncture-resistant, leak-proof sharps containers are located in every patient-care area (e.g., exam room, chemotherapy suite, phlebotomy station)
 - Specifically for phlebotomy stations, a sharps container is located within a short distance of each phlebotomist's work space
 - All sharps are disposed of in the designated sharps container; do not bend, recap, or break used syringe needles before discarding them into the container
 - Filled sharps containers are disposed of in accordance with state regulated medical waste rules
- Regular trash and regulated medical waste (e.g., biohazardous material and chemical hazardous waste, including antineoplastic drugs) are disposed of in their designated containers
- All trash and waste containers are emptied at least daily by designated personnel
 - Wear appropriate PPE
 - Handle, transport, and dispose regulated waste, including antineoplastic and hazardous drugs, in accordance with state and local regulations

CDC Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities (available at: http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/guidelines/eic_in_HCF_03.pdf)

CDC Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization in Health-care Facilities, 2008 (available at: http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/guidelines/Disinfection_Nov_2008.pdf)

CDC Guideline for the Prevention and Control of Norovirus Gastroenteritis Outbreaks in Healthcare Settings (available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/norovirus/Norovirus-Guideline-2011.pdf>)

CDC Infection Prevention during Blood Glucose Monitoring and Insulin Administration (available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/blood-glucose-monitoring.html>)

APIC Infection Prevention Manual for Ambulatory Care, 2009

V. Transmission-Based Precautions

In addition to consistent use of Standard Precautions, additional precautions may be warranted in certain situations as described below.

A. Identifying Potentially Infectious Patients

- Facility staff remain alert for any patient arriving with symptoms of an active infection (e.g., diarrhea, rash, respiratory symptoms, draining wounds or skin lesions)
- If patient calls ahead:
 - Have patients with symptoms of active infection come at a time when the facility is less crowded, if possible
- Alert registration staff ahead of time to place the patient in a private exam room upon arrival if available and follow the procedures pertinent to the route of transmission as specified below
- If the purpose of the visit is non-urgent, patients are encouraged to reschedule the appointment until symptoms have resolved

B. Contact Precautions

- Apply to patients with any of the following conditions and/or disease:
 - Presence of stool incontinence (may include patients with norovirus, rotavirus, or *Clostridium difficile*), draining wounds, uncontrolled secretions, pressure ulcers, or presence of ostomy tubes and/or bags draining body fluids
 - Presence of generalized rash or exanthems
- Prioritize placement of patients in an exam room if they have stool incontinence, draining wounds and/or skin lesions that cannot be covered, or uncontrolled secretions
- Perform hand hygiene before touching patient and prior to wearing gloves
- PPE use:
 - Wear gloves when touching the patient and the patient's immediate environment or belongings
 - Wear a gown if substantial contact with the patient or their environment is anticipated
- Perform hand hygiene after removal of PPE; *note*: use soap and water when hands are visibly soiled (e.g., blood, body fluids), or after caring for patients with known or suspected infectious diarrhea (e.g., *Clostridium difficile*, norovirus)
- Clean/disinfect the exam room accordingly (refer to Section IV.F.4.)
- Instruct patients with known or suspected infectious diarrhea to use a separate bathroom, if available; clean/disinfect the bathroom before it can be used again (refer to Section IV.F.5. for bathroom cleaning/disinfection)

C. Droplet Precautions

- Apply to patients known or suspected to be infected with a pathogen that can be transmitted by droplet route; these include, but are not limited to:
 - Respiratory viruses (e.g., influenza, parainfluenza virus, adenovirus, respiratory syncytial virus, human metapneumovirus)
 - Bordetella pertussis
 - For first 24 hours of therapy: *Neisseria meningitidis*, group A streptococcus
- Place the patient in an exam room with a closed door as soon as possible (prioritize patients who have excessive cough and sputum production); if an exam room is not available, the patient is provided a facemask and placed in a separate area as far from other patients as possible while awaiting care.
- PPE use:
 - Wear a facemask, such as a procedure or surgical mask, for close contact with the patient; the facemask should be donned upon entering the exam room
 - If substantial spraying of respiratory fluids is anticipated, gloves and gown as well as goggles (or face shield in place of goggles) should be worn
- Perform hand hygiene before and after touching the patient and after contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects/materials; *note*: use soap and water when hands are visibly soiled (e.g., blood, body fluids)
- Instruct patient to wear a facemask when exiting the exam room, avoid coming into close contact with other patients, and practice respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette
- Clean and disinfect the exam room accordingly (refer to Section IV.F.4.)

D. Airborne Precautions

- Apply to patients known or suspected to be infected with a pathogen that can be transmitted by airborne route; these include, but are not limited to:
 - Tuberculosis
 - Measles
 - Chickenpox (until lesions are crusted over)
 - Localized (in immunocompromised patient) or disseminated herpes zoster (until lesions are crusted over)
- Have patient enter through a separate entrance to the facility (e.g., dedicated isolation entrance), if available, to avoid the reception and registration area
- Place the patient immediately in an airborne infection isolation room (AIIR)
- If an AIIR is not available:
 - Provide a facemask (e.g., procedure or surgical mask) to the patient and place the patient immediately in an exam room with a closed door
 - Instruct the patient to keep the facemask on while in the exam room, if possible, and to change the mask if it becomes wet
 - Initiate protocol to transfer patient to a health-care facility that has the recommended infection-control capacity to properly manage the patient
- PPE use:
 - Wear a fit-tested N-95 or higher level disposable respirator, if available, when caring for the patient; the respirator should be donned prior to room entry and removed after exiting room
 - If substantial spraying of respiratory fluids is anticipated, gloves and gown as well as goggles or face shield should be worn
- Perform hand hygiene before and after touching the patient and after contact with respiratory secretions and/or body fluids and contaminated objects/materials; *note*: use soap and water when hands are visibly soiled (e.g., blood, body fluids)
- Instruct patient to wear a facemask when exiting the exam room, avoid coming into close contact with other patients, and practice respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette
- Once the patient leaves, the exam room should remain vacant for generally one hour before anyone enters; however, adequate wait time may vary depending on the ventilation rate of the room and should be determined accordingly*
 - If staff must enter the room during the wait time, they are required to use respiratory protection

*Francis J. Curry National Tuberculosis Center, FAQ: "How long does it take to clear the air in an isolation or high-risk procedure room?" (Available at: http://www.flpic.com/TB_air_exchange.pdf)

CDC 2007 Guideline for Isolation Precautions (available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/isolation/Isolation2007.pdf>)

CDC Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of Mycobacterium tuberculosis in Health-Care Settings, 2005 (Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr5417.pdf>)

VI. Central Venous Catheters

The procedures outlined below pertain to the access and maintenance of long-term central venous catheters (e.g., vascular access devices). These include peripherally inserted central catheters (PICCs), tunneled catheters (e.g., Broviac®, Hickman®, and Groshong® catheters), including tunneled apheresis catheters, and implanted ports. For other types of access devices, such as intraperitoneal ports, refer to guidelines from relevant professional societies (e.g., Oncology Nursing Society).

Several recommendations in this section have been adapted directly from the Oncology Nursing Society

Access Devices Guidelines and the Infusion Nursing Society Standards of Practice. There is not a consensus over the use of clean versus sterile gloves when accessing certain vascular access devices, such as implanted ports; where indicated, recommendations by specific professional societies are provided. While the recommendations below apply generally, health-care personnel are to follow manufacturers' instructions and labeled use for specific care and maintenance. Only healthcare personnel who have attained and maintained competency should perform these procedures.

A. General Maintenance and Access Procedures

1. Accessing Central Venous Catheters

This procedure applies only to PICCs and tunneled catheters, including apheresis catheters. Refer to Part D.1. below for accessing implanted ports. In general, closed catheter access systems should be used preferentially over open systems.

- Maintain aseptic technique

- Perform hand hygiene and assemble the necessary equipment
- Wear clean gloves
- Scrub the injection cap (e.g., needleless connector) with an appropriate antiseptic (e.g., chlorhexidine, povidone iodine, or 70% alcohol), and allow to dry (if povidone iodine is used, it should dry for at least 2 minutes)

- Access the injection cap with the syringe or IV tubing (opening the clamp, if necessary)
- Perform hand hygiene when done

2. Blood Draws from Central Venous Catheters

- Access the catheter as outlined above, maintaining aseptic technique
- Remove the first 3-5 mL of blood and discard
- Obtain specimen
- Flush with 10-20 mL of normal saline (clamping the catheter as flushing is completed, if necessary) and promptly dispose of used syringe(s)
- Perform hand hygiene when done

3. Flushing Technique

Refer to the manufacturer's instructions of the catheter and the needleless connector for the appropriate technique to use; unless otherwise specified, perform the following:

- Single-use flushing systems (e.g., single-dose vials, prefilled syringes) should be used
- Access the catheter as outlined above, maintaining aseptic technique
- In general, avoid using a syringe less than 3 mL in size to flush, preferably use 10 mL
- Flush the catheter vigorously using pulsating technique and maintain pressure at the end of the flush to prevent reflux
 - Positive pressure technique (may not apply to neutral-displacement or positive-displacement needleless connectors):
 - i. Flush the catheter, continue to hold the plunger of the syringe while closing the clamp on the catheter and then disconnect the syringe
 - ii. For catheters without a clamp, withdraw the syringe as the last 0.5-1 mL of fluid is flushed
 - Promptly dispose of used syringe(s)
- Perform hand hygiene when done

4. Changing Catheter Site Dressing

This procedure applies only to PICCs and tunneled

catheters, including apheresis catheters.

- Supplies for site cleansing and dressing changes should be single-use; refer to manufacturer's recommendations to ensure compatibility with the catheter material
- Maintain aseptic technique
- Perform hand hygiene
- Wear clean or sterile gloves (additional precaution per Infusion Nursing Society includes use of face-masks and sterile gloves)
- Remove existing dressing and inspect the site visually
- Apply antiseptic to the site using >0.5% chlorhexidine preparation with alcohol; if there is contraindication to chlorhexidine, use tincture of iodine, an iodophor, or 70% alcohol as alternative
- Do *not* apply topical antibiotic ointment or creams to catheter site
- Cover with either sterile gauze or sterile, transparent, semipermeable dressing (refer to catheter-specific recommendations for frequency of dressing changes)
- Perform hand hygiene when done

5. Changing the Injection Cap (e.g., Needleless Connector)

This procedure applies only to PICCs and tunneled catheters, including apheresis catheters. Refer to manufacturer's instructions for how frequently to change the injection cap; if information is not available, in general, change every week or when there are signs of blood, precipitate, cracks, leaks, or other defects, or when the septum is no longer intact.

- Maintain aseptic technique
- Perform hand hygiene and assemble the necessary equipment
- Wear clean gloves
- Scrub the injection cap and catheter hub with appropriate antiseptic agent; clamp the catheter if necessary as cap is removed
- Attach new cap to catheter hub using aseptic technique
- Perform hand hygiene when done

B. Peripherally Inserted Central Catheters (PICCs)

Refer to steps 1-5 in Section VI.A. above for PICC access and common maintenance procedures. Additional recommendations for routine maintenance and care:

- Frequency of dressing change:
 - Change 24 hours after insertion
 - Transparent dressing: change every 5-7 days unless soiled or loose
- Gauze dressing: change every 2 days or as needed if wet, soiled, or nonocclusive
- Flushing: use of heparin flushes and the recommended concentration and frequency of flushing are determined in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and per the treating clinician's orders (in general, for valve catheters or closed tip catheters, flush with normal saline unless otherwise specified)

C. Tunneled Catheters

Tunneled catheters include Broviac®, Hickman®, and Groshong® catheters, as well as apheresis catheters. Refer to steps 1-5 in Section VI.A. above for catheter access and common maintenance procedures. Additional recommendations for routine maintenance and care:

- Frequency of dressing change:
 - Change 24 hours after insertion
 - Transparent dressing: change not more than once a week unless soiled or loose
 - Gauze and tape dressing: change every 2 days or

as needed if wet, soiled, or nonocclusive

- Once healed, tunneled catheters may go without a dressing unless the patient is immunocompromised
- Flushing: use of heparin flushes and the recommended concentration and frequency of flushing are determined in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and per the treating clinician's orders (in general, for Groshong® catheters, valve catheters, or closed tip catheters, flush with normal saline unless otherwise specified)

D. Implanted Ports

1. Port Access Procedure

- Perform hand hygiene first; prior to each access, examine the site for complications, including examination of the veins of the chest and neck to look for any swelling, erythema, drainage or leakage, or presence of pain, discomfort, or tenderness
- Palpate the outline of the portal body
- Perform hand hygiene again; wear clean or sterile gloves (additional precaution per INS includes use of sterile gloves and facemasks)
- Cleanse port site with appropriate antiseptic agent
- Administer topical anesthetic, if ordered
- Stabilize portal body with one hand, and insert non-coring needle (e.g., Huber needle) with the other hand until portal backing is felt
- Ensure patency by blood return and dispose of used syringe(s)
- Stabilize needle/port with tape, securement device, or stabilization device; apply gauze and tape for short-term use (such as for outpatient treatment)
- Perform hand hygiene when done

2. Port De-access Procedure

- Perform hand hygiene; wear clean or sterile gloves
- Remove dressing and inspect site
- Remove gloves, perform hand hygiene again, and wear new gloves
- Flush device with 20 mL normal saline followed by heparin flush, unless otherwise specified by manufacturer and/or treating clinician
- Stabilize port with one hand, and remove needle

with the other hand; maintain positive pressure while deaccessing by flushing the catheter while withdrawing the needle from the septum

- Promptly dispose of needle and syringe
- Apply bandage or dressing
- Perform hand hygiene when done

3. Maintenance and Care

- For short-term use in outpatient settings, a light dressing may be used in place of an occlusive dressing during the infusion; ensure the needle is secure in the portal septum as described above
- Use of heparin flushes and the recommended concentration and frequency of flushing are to be determined in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and per the treating clinician's order (in general, when not in use, implanted ports should be accessed and flushed every 4-8 weeks to maintain patency)
- For blood specimens: discard 5-10 mL of blood, obtain specimen, flush with 10-20 mL of normal saline, and promptly discard used syringe(s)

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INS 2011 Infusion Nursing Standards of Practice

CDC Guidelines for the Prevention of Intravascular Catheter-Related Infections, 2011 (available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/guidelines/bsi-guidelines-2011.pdf>)

Appendix A.

Example List of Contact Persons and Roles/Responsibilities

Contact Person(s) ^a (Names/Titles)	Contact Information	Roles/Responsibilities
	Phone: Pager: Email:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infection prevention personnel/consultant • Assists with infection control plan development, update/revision, and implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including a protocol for transferring patients who require Airborne Precautions (if applicable)
	Phone: Pager: Email:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate and train facility staff (including Environmental Services/housekeeping) • Assess for competency of jobs/tasks (<i>examples provided</i>): • Hand hygiene performance/compliance • Proper use of PPE • Environmental cleaning/disinfection • Triage/screening, taking vital signs • Phlebotomy service • Determine when to implement enhanced respiratory screening measures • Ensure facility sick leave policies are in place and followed
	Phone: Pager: Email:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect, manage, and analyze HAI data for surveillance purposes • Prepare and distribute surveillance reports • Notifies state and local health departments of reportable diseases/conditions and outbreaks
	Phone: Pager: Email:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides fit-testing for N-95 respirators (if used in facility) and appropriate respiratory protection training to facility staff
	Phone: Pager: Email:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess patients presenting with symptoms of active infection (may be notified by registration staff upon patient arrival) • Determine patient placement as needed
	Phone: Pager: Email:	Environmental Services (ES) /housekeeping staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for (<i>specify tasks, examples provided</i>): • Ensure supplies are restocked • Daily cleaning of patient-care areas • Disinfect bathrooms as needed • Cleaning large spills of blood or other potentially infectious materials^b • Empty regular trash and dispose regulated waste accordingly
	Phone: Pager: Email:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean/disinfect areas and/or surfaces that require more frequent cleaning or are not routinely cleaned by ES/housekeeping staff (<i>specify areas/surfaces and specific situations, examples provided</i>): • Medication preparation area after each patient encounter • Patient-care devices after each use • Exam rooms and/or chemotherapy suite after each patient encounter (e.g., change paper covering exam table, clean chemotherapy chair) • Patient-care areas after contamination with body fluids^c
	Phone: Pager: Email:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor medication/vaccine refrigerator temperature log • Ensure alternative storage method is in place in the event of power failure (<i>specify method</i>)

^a Several roles/tasks may be performed by the same person, e.g., Infection Prevention personnel, or by more than one person.

^b Cleaning/disinfection of spills of blood or other potentially infectious materials should be assigned to personnel trained to handle such situations; this may include facility staff other than ES/housekeeping staff.

^c Ensure this task is assigned to personnel who are available to respond in a timely manner; in some facilities, ES/housekeeping staff may be better equipped to handle this type of cleaning/disinfection.

Appendix B.

Reportable Diseases/Conditions

[Insert a list of reportable disease/conditions specific to your state and the appropriate contact information for your local and state health authorities. This information may be found at your state department of health

website and/or at the following weblink:

Appendix C.

CDC Infection Prevention Checklist for Outpatient Settings

Minimum Expectations for Safe Care

The following checklist is a companion to the *Guide to Infection Prevention for Outpatient Settings: Minimum Expectations for Safe Care*. The checklist should be used:

1. To ensure that the facility has appropriate infection prevention policies and procedures in place and supplies to allow healthcare personnel to provide safe care.
2. To systematically assess personnel adherence to correct infection prevention practices. (Assessment of adherence should be conducted by direct observation of healthcare personnel during the performance of their duties.)

Facilities using this checklist should identify all procedures performed in their ambulatory setting and refer to appropriate sections to conduct their evaluation.

Certain sections may not apply (e.g., some settings may not perform sterilization or high-level disinfection). If the answer to any of the listed questions is No, efforts should be made to correct the practice, appropriately educate healthcare personnel (if applicable), and determine why the correct practice was not being performed. Consideration should also be made for determining the risk posed to patients by the deficient practice. Certain infection control lapses (e.g., re-use of syringes on more than one patient or to access a medication container that is used for subsequent patients; re-use of lancets) can result in bloodborne pathogen transmission and should be halted immediately. Identification of such lapses warrants immediate consultation with the state or local health department and appropriate notification and testing of potentially affected patients.

Section I: Administrative Policies and Facility Practices

Facility Policies	Practice Performed	If answer is no, document plan for remediation
A. Written infection prevention policies and procedures are available, current, and based on evidence-based guidelines (e.g., CDC/HICPAC), regulations, or standards <i>Note: Policies and procedures should be appropriate for the services provided by the facility and should extend beyond OSHA bloodborne pathogen training</i>	Yes No	
B. Infection prevention policies and procedures are re-assessed at least annually or according to state or federal requirements	Yes No	
C. At least one individual trained in infection prevention is employed by or regularly available to the facility	Yes No	
D. Supplies necessary for adherence to Standard Precautions are readily available <i>Note: This includes hand hygiene products, personal protective equipment, and injection equipment</i>	Yes No	
General Infection Prevention Education and Training		
A. Healthcare Personnel (HCP) receive job-specific training on infection prevention policies and procedures upon hire and at least annually or according to state or federal requirements <i>Note: This includes those employed by outside agencies and available by contract or on a volunteer basis to the facility</i>	Yes No	
B. Competency and compliance with job-specific infection prevention policies and procedures are documented both upon hire and through annual evaluations/assessments	Yes No	

Occupational Health

RESOURCES

For additional guidance on occupational health recommendations consult the following resource(s):

Guideline for Infection Control in Healthcare Personnel available at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/InfectControl98.pdf>

Immunization of HealthCare Personnel, guidance available at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/spec-grps/hcw.htm>

Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) Bloodborne Pathogens and Needlestick Prevention Standards available at:

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/bloodbornepathogens/index.html>

A. HCP are trained on the OSHA bloodborne pathogen standard upon hire and at least annually	Yes	No	
B. The facility maintains a log of needlesticks, sharps injuries, and other employee exposure events	Yes	No	
C. Following an exposure event, post-exposure evaluation and follow-up, including prophylaxis as appropriate, are available at no cost to employee and are supervised by a licensed healthcare professional	Yes	No	
D. Hepatitis B vaccination is available at no cost to all employees who are at risk of occupational exposure	Yes	No	
E. Post-vaccination screening for protective levels of hepatitis B surface antibody is conducted after third vaccine dose is administered	Yes	No	
F. All HCP are offered annual influenza vaccination at no cost	Yes	No	
G. All HCP who have potential for exposure to tuberculosis (TB) are screened for TB upon hire and annually (if negative)	Yes	No	
H. The facility has a respiratory protection program that details required worksite-specific procedures and elements for required respirator use	Yes	No	
I. Respiratory fit testing is provided at least annually to appropriate HCP	Yes	No	
J. Facility has written protocols for managing/preventing job-related and community-acquired infections or important exposures in HCP, including notification of appropriate Infection Prevention and Occupational Health personnel when applicable	Yes	No	

Surveillance and Disease Reporting

A. An updated list of diseases reportable to the public health authority is readily available to all personnel	Yes	No	
B. The facility can demonstrate compliance with mandatory reporting requirements for notifiable diseases, healthcare associated infections, and for potential outbreaks	Yes	No	

Hand Hygiene

RESOURCES

For additional guidance on hand hygiene and resources for training and measurement of adherence consult the following resource(s):

Guideline for Hand Hygiene in Healthcare Settings available at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5116.pdf>

Hand Hygiene in Healthcare Settings available at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/handhygiene/>

List of tools that can be used to measure adherence to hand hygiene available at:

http://www.jointcommission.org/assets/1/18/hh_monograph.pdf

A. The facility provides supplies necessary for adherence to hand hygiene (e.g., soap, water, paper towels, alcohol-based hand rub) and ensures they are readily accessible to HCP in patient care areas	Yes No	
B. HCP are educated regarding appropriate indications for hand washing with soap and water versus hand rubbing with alcohol-based hand rub <i>Note: Soap and water should be used when bare hands are visibly soiled (e.g., blood, body fluids) or after caring for a patient with known or suspected infectious diarrhea (e.g., Clostridium difficile or norovirus). In all other situations, alcohol-based hand rub may be used.</i>	Yes No	
C. The facility periodically monitors and records adherence to hand hygiene and provides feedback to personnel regarding their performance <i>Examples of tools used to record adherence to hand hygiene: http://www.jointcommission.org/assets/1/18/hh_monograph.pdf</i>	Yes No	

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

RESOURCES

For additional guidance on personal protective equipment consult the following resource(s):

2007 Guidelines for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings available at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/isolation/Isolation2007.pdf>

A. The facility has sufficient and appropriate PPE available and readily accessible to HCP	Yes No	
B. HCP receive training on proper selection and use of PPE	Yes No	

Injection Safety

RESOURCES

For additional guidance on injection safety consult the following resource(s):

2007 Guidelines for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings available at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/isolation/Isolation2007.pdf>

CDC Injection Safety Web Materials available at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/>

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding Safe Practices for Medical Injections available at:

http://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/providers/provider_faqs.html

CDC training video and related Safe Injection Practices Campaign materials available at:

<http://www.oneandonlycampaign.org/>

Injection Safety		
A. Medication purchasing decisions at the facility reflect selection of vial sizes that most appropriately fit the procedure needs of the facility and limit need for sharing of multi-dose vials	Yes	No
B. Injections are required to be prepared using aseptic technique in a clean area free from contamination or contact with blood, body fluids or contaminated equipment	Yes	No
C. Facility has policies and procedures to track HCP access to controlled substances to prevent narcotics theft/diversion	Yes	No

Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette		
RESOURCES	<p>For additional guidance on respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette consult the following resource(s):</p> <p>2007 Guidelines for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings available at: http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/isolation/Isolation2007.pdf</p> <p>Recommendations for preventing the spread of influenza available at: http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/</p>	
A. The facility has policies and procedures to contain respiratory secretions in persons who have signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection, beginning at point of entry to the facility and continuing through the duration of the visit. Measures include:	Yes	No
i. Posting signs at entrances (with instructions to patients with symptoms of respiratory infection to cover their mouths/ noses when coughing or sneezing, use and dispose of tissues, and perform hand hygiene after hands have been in contact with respiratory secretions)	Yes	No
ii. Providing tissues and no-touch receptacles for disposal of tissues	Yes	No
iii. Providing resources for performing hand hygiene in or near waiting areas	Yes	No
iv. Offering facemasks to coughing patients and other symptomatic persons upon entry to the facility	Yes	No
v. Providing space and encouraging persons with symptoms of respiratory infections to sit as far away from others as possible. If available, facilities may wish to place these patients in a separate area while waiting for care	Yes	No
B. The facility educates HCP on the importance of infection prevention measures to contain respiratory secretions to prevent the spread of respiratory pathogens when examining and caring for patients with signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection	Yes	No

Environmental Cleaning

RESOURCES

For additional guidance on environmental cleaning consult the following resource(s):

Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Healthcare Facilities available at:
http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/guidelines/eic_in_HCF_03.pdf

A. Facility has written policies and procedures for routine cleaning and disinfection of environmental services, including identification of responsible personnel	Yes	No	
B. Environmental services staff receive job-specific training and competency validation at hire and when procedures/policies change	Yes	No	
C. Training and equipment are available to ensure that HCP wear appropriate PPE to preclude exposure to infectious agents or chemicals (PPE can include gloves, gowns, masks, and eye protection)	Yes	No	
D. Cleaning procedures are periodically monitored and assessed to ensure that they are consistently and correctly performed	Yes	No	
E. The facility has a policy/procedure for decontamination of spills of blood or other body fluids	Yes	No	

Reprocessing of Reusable Medical Devices

RESOURCES

The following basic information allows for a general assessment of policies and procedures related to reprocessing of reusable medical devices. Ambulatory facilities that are providing on-site sterilization or high-level disinfection of reusable medical equipment should refer to the more detailed checklists related to sterilization and high-level disinfection in separate sections of this document devoted to those issues.

Critical items (e.g., surgical instruments) are objects that enter sterile tissue or the vascular system and must be sterile prior to use (see Sterilization Section).

Semi-critical items (e.g., endoscopes for upper endoscopy and colonoscopy, vaginal probes) are objects that contact mucous membranes or non-intact skin and require, at a minimum, high-level disinfection prior to reuse (see High-level Disinfection Section).

Non-critical items (e.g., blood pressure cuffs) are objects that may come in contact with intact skin but not mucous membranes and should undergo cleaning and low- or intermediate-level disinfection depending on the nature and degree of contamination.

Single-use devices (SUDs) are labeled by the manufacturer for a single use and do not have reprocessing instructions. They may not be reprocessed for reuse except by entities which have complied with FDA regulatory requirements and have received FDA clearance to reprocess specific SUDs.

Note: Pre-cleaning must always be performed prior to sterilization and/or disinfection

For additional guidance on reprocessing of medical devices consult the manufacturer instructions for the device and the following resource(s):

Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare Facilities available at:
http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/guidelines/Disinfection_Nov_2008.pdf

FDA regulations on reprocessing of single-use medical devices available at:
<http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/GuidanceDocuments/ucm071434>

Reprocessing of Reusable Medical Devices		
A. Facility has policies and procedures to ensure that reusable medical devices are cleaned and reprocessed appropriately prior to use on another patient <i>Note: This includes clear delineation of responsibility among HCP</i>	Yes	No
B. Policies, procedures, and manufacturer reprocessing instructions for reusable medical devices used in the facility are available in the reprocessing area(s)	Yes	No
C. HCP responsible for reprocessing reusable medical devices are appropriately trained and competencies are regularly documented (at least annually and when new equipment is introduced)	Yes	No
D. Training and equipment are available to ensure that HCP wear appropriate PPE to prevent exposure to infectious agents or chemicals (PPE can include gloves, gowns, masks, and eye protection) <i>Note: The exact type of PPE depends on infectious or chemical agent and anticipated type of exposure</i>	Yes	No

Sterilization of Reusable Instruments and Devices

RESOURCES	For additional guidance on sterilization of medical devices consult the manufacturer instructions for the device and the following resource(s):	
	Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare Facilities available at: http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/guidelines/Disinfection_Nov_2008.pdf	
	A. All reusable critical instruments and devices are sterilized prior to reuse	Yes No
	B. Routine maintenance for sterilization equipment is performed according to manufacturer instructions (confirm maintenance records are available)	Yes No
C. Policies and procedures are in place outlining facility response (i.e., recall of device and risk assessment) in the event of a reprocessing error/failure	Yes No	

High-Level Disinfection of Reusable Instruments and Devices

RESOURCES	For additional guidance on reprocessing of high-level disinfection devices consult the manufacturer instructions for the device and the following resource(s):	
	Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare Facilities available at: http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/guidelines/Disinfection_Nov_2008.pdf	
	A. All reusable semi-critical items receive at least high-level disinfection prior to reuse	Yes No
	B. The facility has a system in place to identify which instrument (e.g., endoscope) was used on a patient via a log for each procedure	Yes No
C. Routine maintenance for high-level disinfection equipment is performed according to manufacturer instructions; confirm maintenance records are available	Yes No	

Section II: Personnel and Patient-care Observations

Hand hygiene performed correctly	Practice Performed	If answer is no, document plan for remediation
A. Before contact with the patient or their immediate care environment (even if gloves are worn)	Yes No	
B. Before exiting the patient's care area after touching the patient or the patient's immediate environment (even if gloves are worn)	Yes No	
C. Before performing an aseptic task (e.g., insertion of IV or preparing an injection) (even if gloves are worn)	Yes No	
D. After contact with blood, body fluids or contaminated surfaces (even if gloves are worn)	Yes No	
E. When hands move from a contaminated-body site to a clean-body site during patient care (even if gloves are worn)	Yes No	
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is correctly used		
A. PPE is removed and discarded prior to leaving the patient's room or care area	Yes No	
B. Hand hygiene is performed immediately after removal of PPE	Yes No	
C. Gloves:		
i. HCP wear gloves for potential contact with blood, body fluids, mucous membranes, non-intact skin, or contaminated equipment	Yes No	
ii. HCP <u>do not</u> wear the same pair of gloves for the care of more than one patient	Yes No	
iii. HCP <u>do not</u> wash gloves for the purpose of reuse	Yes No	
D. Gowns:		
i. HCP wear gowns to protect skin and clothing during procedures or activities where contact with blood or body fluids is anticipated	Yes No	
ii. HCP <u>do not</u> wear the same gown for the care of more than one patient	Yes No	
E. Facial protection:		
i. HCP wear mouth, nose, and eye protection during procedures that are likely to generate splashes or sprays of blood or other body fluids	Yes No	
ii. HCP wear a facemask (e.g., surgical mask) when placing a catheter or injecting material into the epidural or subdural space (e.g., during myelogram, epidural or spinal anesthesia)	Yes No	

Injection safety		
A. Needles and syringes are used for only one patient (this includes manufactured prefilled syringes and cartridge devices such as insulin pens)	Yes	No
B. The rubber septum on a medication vial is disinfected with alcohol prior to piercing	Yes	No
C. Medication vials are entered with a new needle and a new syringe, even when obtaining additional doses for the same patient	Yes	No
D. Single dose (single-use) medication vials, ampules, and bags or bottles of intravenous solution are used for only one patient	Yes	No
E. Medication administration tubing and connectors are used for only one patient	Yes	No
F. Multi-dose vials are dated by HCP when they are first opened and discarded within 28 days unless the manufacturer specifies a different (shorter or longer) date for that opened vial <i>Note: This is different from the expiration date printed on the vial</i>	Yes	No
G. Multi-dose vials are dedicated to individual patients whenever possible	Yes	No
H. Multi-dose vials to be used for more than one patient are kept in a centralized medication area and <u>do not</u> enter the immediate patient treatment area (e.g., operating room, patient room/cubicle) <i>Note: If multi-dose vials enter the immediate patient treatment area they should be dedicated for single-patient use and discarded immediately after use</i>	Yes	No
I. All sharps are disposed of in a puncture-resistant sharps container	Yes	No
J. Filled sharps containers are disposed of in accordance with state regulated medical waste rules	Yes	No
K. All controlled substances (e.g., Schedule II, III, IV, V drugs) are kept locked within a secure area	Yes	No

Point-of-Care Testing (e.g., blood glucose meters, INR monitor)

For additional guidance on infection prevention during point-of-care testing consult the following resource(s):

Infection Prevention during Blood Glucose Monitoring and Insulin Administration available at:
<http://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/blood-glucose-monitoring.html>

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding Assisted Blood Glucose Monitoring and Insulin Administration available at:
http://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/providers/blood-glucose-monitoring_faqs.html

Point-of-Care Testing (e.g., blood glucose meters, INR monitor)

<p>A. New single-use, auto-disabling lancing device is used for each patient</p> <p><i>Note: Lancet holder devices are not suitable for multi-patient use</i></p>	<p>Yes No</p>	
<p>B. If used for more than one patient, the point-of-care testing meter is cleaned and disinfected after every use according to manufacturer instructions</p> <p><i>Note: If the manufacturer does not provide instructions for cleaning and disinfection, then the testing meter should not be used for >1 patient</i></p>	<p>Yes No</p>	

Environmental Cleaning

<p>A. Environmental surfaces, with an emphasis on surfaces in proximity to the patient and those that are frequently touched, are cleaned and then disinfected with an EPA-registered disinfectant</p>	<p>Yes No</p>	
<p>B. Cleaners and disinfectants are used in accordance with manufacturer instructions (e.g., dilution, storage, shelf-life, contact time)</p>	<p>Yes No</p>	

Reprocessing of Reusable Instruments and Devices

<p>A. Reusable medical devices are cleaned, reprocessed (disinfection or sterilization) and maintained according to the manufacturer instructions.</p> <p><i>Note: If the manufacturer does not provide such instructions, the device may not be suitable for multi-patient use</i></p>	<p>Yes No</p>	
<p>B. Single-use devices are discarded after use and not used for more than one patient.</p> <p><i>Note: If the facility elects to reuse single-use devices, these devices must be reprocessed prior to reuse by a third-party reprocessor that it is registered with the FDA as a third-party reprocessor and cleared by the FDA to reprocess the specific device in question. The facility should have documentation from the third party reprocessor confirming this is the case.</i></p>	<p>Yes No</p>	
<p>C. Reprocessing area has a workflow pattern such that devices clearly flow from high contamination areas to clean/sterile areas (i.e., there is clear separation between soiled and clean workspaces)</p>	<p>Yes No</p>	
<p>D. Medical devices are stored in a manner to protect from damage and contamination</p>	<p>Yes No</p>	

Sterilization of Reusable Instruments and Devices		
A. Items are thoroughly pre-cleaned according to manufacturer instructions and visually inspected for residual soil prior to sterilization <i>Note: For lumened instruments, device channels and lumens must be cleaned using appropriately sized cleaning brushes</i>	Yes	No
B. Enzymatic cleaner or detergent is used for pre-cleaning and discarded according to manufacturer instructions (typically after each use)	Yes	No
C. Cleaning brushes are disposable or cleaned and high-level disinfected or sterilized (per manufacturer instructions) after each use	Yes	No
D. After pre-cleaning, instruments are appropriately wrapped/packaged for sterilization (e.g., package system selected is compatible with the sterilization process being performed, hinged instruments are open, instruments are disassembled if indicated by the manufacturer)	Yes	No
E. A chemical indicator (process indicator) is placed correctly in the instrument packs in every load	Yes	No
F. A biological indicator is used at least weekly for each sterilizer and with every load containing implantable items	Yes	No
G. For dynamic air removal-type sterilizers, a Bowie-Dick test is performed each day the sterilizer is used to verify efficacy of air removal	Yes	No
H. Sterile packs are labeled with the sterilizer used, the cycle or load number, and the date of sterilization	Yes	No
I. Logs for each sterilizer cycle are current and include results from each load	Yes	No
J. After sterilization, medical devices and instruments are stored so that sterility is not compromised	Yes	No
K. Sterile packages are inspected for integrity and compromised packages are reprocessed prior to use	Yes	No
L. Immediate-use steam sterilization (flash sterilization), if performed, is only done in circumstances in which routine sterilization procedures cannot be performed	Yes	No
M. Instruments that are flash-sterilized are used immediately and not stored	Yes	No

High-Level Disinfection of Reusable Instruments and Devices

A. Flexible endoscopes are inspected for damage and leak tested as part of each reprocessing cycle	Yes	No	
B. Items are thoroughly pre-cleaned according to manufacturer instructions and visually inspected for residual soil prior to high-level disinfection <i>Note: For lumened instruments, device channels and lumens must be cleaned using appropriately sized cleaning brushes</i>	Yes	No	
C. Enzymatic cleaner or detergent is used and discarded according to manufacturer instructions (typically after each use)	Yes	No	
D. Cleaning brushes are disposable or cleaned and high-level disinfected or sterilized (per manufacturer instructions) after each use	Yes	No	
E. For chemicals used in high-level disinfection, manufacturer instructions are followed for: i. preparation ii. testing for appropriate concentration iii. replacement (i.e., prior to expiration or loss of efficacy)	Yes	No	
F. If automated reprocessing equipment is used, proper connectors are used to assure that channels and lumens are appropriately disinfected	Yes	No	
G. Devices are disinfected for the appropriate length of time as specified by manufacturer instructions	Yes	No	
H. Devices are disinfected at the appropriate temperature as specified by manufacturer instructions	Yes	No	
I. After high-level disinfection, devices are rinsed with sterile water, filtered water, or tap water followed by a rinse with 70% - 90% ethyl or isopropyl alcohol	Yes	No	
J. Devices are dried thoroughly prior to reuse <i>Note: Lumened instruments (e.g., endoscopes) require flushing channels with alcohol and forcing air through channels</i>	Yes	No	
K. After high-level disinfection, devices are stored in a manner to protect from damage or contamination <i>Note: Endoscopes should be hung in a vertical position</i>	Yes	No	

Appendix D.

Additional Resources

Infection prevention issues unique to blood and marrow transplant centers (a.k.a. bone marrow transplant or stem cell transplant centers)

RESOURCES

Guidelines for Preventing Opportunistic Infections Among Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant Recipients available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr4910a1.htm>

Guidelines for Preventing Infectious Complications among Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation Recipients: A Global Perspective available at: http://www.idsociety.org/uploadedFiles/IDSA/Guidelines-Patient_Care/PDF_Library/OI.pdf

Occupational health requirements, including bloodborne pathogen training, healthcare personnel immunizations, and recommended personal protective equipment for handling antineoplastic agents and other hazardous drugs

RESOURCES

Guideline for infection control in healthcare personnel available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/InfectControl98.pdf>

Immunization of Health-Care Workers: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00050577.htm>

OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens and Needlestick Prevention available at: <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/bloodbornepathogens/index.html>

OSHA Controlling Occupational Exposure to Hazardous Drugs available at: http://www.osha.gov/dts/osta/otm/otm_vi/otm_vi_2.html

NIOSH List of Antineoplastic and Other Hazardous Drugs in Healthcare Settings 2010 available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2010-167/pdfs/2010-167.pdf>

NIOSH Personal Protective Equipment for Health Care Workers Who Work with Hazardous Drugs available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/wp-solutions/2009-106/pdfs/2009-106.pdf>

NIOSH Preventing Occupational Exposure to Antineoplastic and Other Hazardous Drugs in Health Care Settings available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2004-165/pdfs/2004-165.pdf>

Appropriate preparation and handling (e.g., reconstituting, mixing, diluting, compounding) of sterile medications, including antineoplastic agents

RESOURCES

United States Pharmacopeia Chapter <797> Guidebook to Pharmaceutical Compounding—Sterile Preparations

International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners Standards of Practice available at: http://opp.sagepub.com/content/13/3_suppl

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Guidelines for Handling Hazardous Drugs available at: <http://www.ashp.org/DocLibrary/BestPractices/PrepGdlHazDrugs.aspx>

Clinical recommendations and guidance for treatment of patients with cancer, including appropriate antimicrobial prescribing practices and prechemotherapy assessment of neutropenia risk

RESOURCES

National Comprehensive Cancer Network Guidelines and Clinical Resources available at: http://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/f_guidelines.asp

American Society of Clinical Oncology Guidelines available at: <http://www.asco.org/ASCOv2/Practice+%26+Guidelines/Guidelines>

Clinical Practice Guideline for the Use of Antimicrobial Agents in Neutropenic Patients with Cancer: 2010 Update by the Infectious Diseases Society of America available at: http://www.idsociety.org/uploadedFiles/IDSA/Guidelines-Patient_Care/PDF_Library/FN.pdf

Practice Guidelines for Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy available at: http://www.idsociety.org/uploadedFiles/IDSA/Guidelines-Patient_Care/PDF_Library/OPAT.pdf

Notes



To learn more about CDC's resources,
please visit cdc.gov/cancer/preventinfections