

EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
INFECTION CONTROL POLICY

Department: Endocrine Clinic Infection Control Policy

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Approved by:

Clinical Medical Director

Administrator/Manager

Chairman, Infection Control Committee

Infection Control Nurse

I. Purpose: The Infection Control policy is established to help safeguard patients and personnel from the transmission of infection between patient and personnel during patient care. All ECU personnel, students, and other healthcare workers are to comply with all infection control policies.

II. Personnel:

A. All new and current employees will comply with employment screening as outlined in the Prospective Health Policy. All Employee Health records will be maintained by Prospective Health.

B. Employees who have potential for blood or other potentially infectious material exposure will be offered hepatitis B vaccine at no charge to the employee. Medical Students and employees who have potential for exposure to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (MTB) have PPD skin testing with follow-up per Prospective Health protocol.

Other health care students with clinical rotations through ECU clinics, other non-employee healthcare workers, and any others who may have patient contact, will have documentation of Infection Control training, required vaccines administered, and PPD skin testing results according to BSOM policy for students/visitors.

C. Any ECU staff (including physicians) or student who has an exposure to a communicable disease through a needle stick or other means will report that exposure to their supervisor or instructor and follow-up will be done per Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan, Tuberculosis Exposure Control Plan or Prospective Health Policy depending on exposure. Resident physicians (Interns, Resident's or Fellows) who have an exposure to a communicable disease in ECU clinics are to notify ECU Prospective Health for testing of the source patient, then personally follow-up with Vidant Occupational Health. Non-ECU students will follow their institutional policy.

If any biologicals or radiation are used, Staff and other workers will follow ECU policy with regard to training, monitoring, etc. Accidental exposures to chemicals and radiation will be reported on an incident report form. The person exposed to these hazards will be evaluated according to ECU Policy. Refer to Radiation Safety Manual, the Biological Safety Manual, and the Chemical Hygiene Plan.

D. Employees will receive education on infection control, standard precautions and OSHA TB and Blood borne pathogen standards upon employment and yearly thereafter. Clinical employees will complete an Employee Health Update annually.

E. This policy will be evaluated every three (3) years and as needed due to change in practice or standards.

III. Physical Layout:

- A. Description
This area is located in Module A of the Brody Outpatient Center. This clinic consists of ten (10) exam rooms and a nurses' station which is separate from the exam rooms.
- B. Isolation room location.
1A-25
- C. 1W-1 Bone Densitometry Machine located in the old VMC Radiology Suite

IV. Infection control procedures:

- A. Handwashing is done with an antimicrobial soap and water immediately before and after each patient contact. Handwashing facilities are available in the bathroom, exam rooms and procedure room.

If handwashing facilities are not immediately available, antiseptic hand cleaners or antiseptic towelettes are provided.

- B. Aseptic techniques should be strictly observed with (list procedures see appendix)
- C. Standard precautions will be observed on all patients. Gloves are worn if hands may be exposed to blood and other potentially infectious materials. Protective mask and eyewear or face shield is worn if facial splashing is likely. Gowns are worn if more extensive splashing of uniform or clothing is likely.

Needles and sharps will be handled according to the Needle Stick Safety and Prevention Act. Needles should not be bent or broken. Needles should not be resheathed unless absolutely necessary. If needles must be resheathed, it must be done with a mechanical device or with a one-handed technique. Safety sharps will be used according to OSHA policy and per manufacturer's instructions. Vacutainer holders will not be reused.

Providers and staff will maintain strict adherence to safe injection practices during patient care:

- Never administer medications from the same syringe to more than one patient, even if the needle is changed
- Do not enter a vial with a used needle or syringe (even if the needle is changed)

Hepatitis C virus, Hepatitis B virus, and HIV can spread from patient to patient when the above precautions are not followed. Additional protection is offered by adhering to the

following:

- Medications packaged as single-use vials will not be used for more than one patient
- Medications packaged as multi-use vials will be assigned to a single patient whenever possible
- Bags or bottles of intravenous solution will not be used as a common source of supply for more than one patient
- Absolute adherence to proper infection control practices will be maintained during the preparation and administration of injected medications

Health care workers who have exudative lesions or weeping dermatitis shall be prohibited from handling patient care equipment and devices used in performing invasive procedures and from all direct patient contact until evaluation by Prospective Health and clearance obtained. Open wounds or sores should be covered with a protective dressing. Refer to policy Work Restriction for Personnel.

Patients who are seen in the ECU clinics are evaluated for signs and symptoms of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (MTB) and any infectious respiratory illness. Refer to policy Identification of Patients with potential Tuberculosis and any other Communicable Respiratory Illness. If a patient exhibits symptoms consistent with possible pulmonary tuberculosis (cough for ≥ 3 weeks hemoptysis or coughing up blood, or chest pain for > 3 weeks) or if tuberculosis is suspected (part of the differential diagnosis), respiratory protection **WILL** be initiated. If other transmissible respiratory pathogens are possible, then respiratory isolation procedures should be initiated; using current epidemiologic factors as a guide; e.g. fever and cough, presence of influenza or SARS in the community, suspicion of unusual clinical presentation etc. These procedures include masking the patient, limiting the time in waiting areas, and placement in a negative pressure airborne infection isolation (AII) room. All staff having patient contact will wear appropriate respiratory protective equipment: N-95 mask in proper size for those having been fit tested. Each clinic will provide proper sized masks and additional masks stocked for replacement. Surgical masks will be available in all clinic areas and reception area. Patients identified with known or suspected diagnosis of MTB or other respiratory illness will be asked to wear the mask until triaged or examined. If TB is part of the differential diagnosis the mask will be worn until evaluation is completed, including during transportation to x-ray or lab. If the patient is suspected to have active TB or any other airborne communicable illness and requires extensive care or hospital admission, they will be transported, wearing a mask, to other facilities (i.e. Vidant) as deemed necessary. The receiving facility will be notified by phone of patient requiring airborne precautions. If a patient is diagnosed with MTB prior to being evaluated in the clinic, the patient will wear a mask throughout the clinic visit and may be scheduled at a less busy time during the clinic (ie the end of the day).

The clinic is equipped with a negative pressure exam room 1A-25. After the patient leaves the room, the door will be closed and not reused for 20-30 minutes to allow time for air-borne infectious agents to be cleared from the air. A sign will be posted on the door notifying staff when it is safe to resume use.

- D. Between patient visits, contaminated areas of exam tables and counter tops will be cleaned with an approved disinfectant. Table paper is changed, soiled linen removed, and contaminated or used supplies disposed of or removed from room between patients.
- E. All patient specimen containers will be placed in leak-proof plastic bags marked with a biohazard label and transported in a covered secondary container marked with a biohazard label.
- F. Personnel protective equipment that includes gloves, gowns, masks and eyewear or face shield, and appropriate respiratory protection for MTB, will be available for employees, non-employees and students. Personal protective equipment is located in each of the exam rooms and masks are also located at the nurses' station and in the extra supplies storage room 1K10.
- G. Refer to Appendix A for a list of commonly performed procedures and the minimum personal protective equipment required.

V. Equipment and Supplies:

- A. Clean equipment is stored in cabinets in the exam rooms and nurses' station and designated closets.

Dirty disposable supplies are placed in red biohazard containers.

This clinic does not have an autoclave.

Reusable dirty equipment is thoroughly cleaned, with approved instrument cleaner, to remove all organic matter. Critical equipment that will enter sterile tissues or the vascular system will be cleaned with instrument cleaner, packaged with chemical indicators in each pack and taken to be autoclaved at outside facility.

- B. Semi critical equipment requiring high level disinfection with glutaraldehyde will be cleaned and disinfected according to the ECU Glutaraldehyde Usage Guidelines Policy.
- C. Equipment is inspected periodically and repaired or replaced as necessary. Non-reusable contaminated equipment will be discarded in appropriate containers.
- D. Each exam room will have an appropriately labeled contaminated trash can (red bag)

and a noncontaminated trash can (clear or brown bag). Any contaminated non-sharp trash will be placed in the red bag trash. These red bags will be gathered by ECU Biohazard Waste technicians and sent for incineration. Any non-contaminated trash will be placed in a clear or brown bag to be collected by housekeeping.

E. Sharp disposal units are located in each exam room mounted to the wall and at the nurses' station. These containers are checked routinely by staff and disposed of when they are 3/4 full. They should be securely sealed and placed in the red bag storage area prior to pick-up for incineration.

F. Clean linen is stored closet in a designated closet and in the appropriate drawer under the exam tables.

Soiled linen should be placed in covered dirty linen hampers. This linen is picked up each week by the contract linen service. Gloves will be worn when handling soiled linen.

APPENDIX A
Minimum PPE Required for Commonly Performed Procedures

| Common Procedures | Minimum Equipment Needed |
|---|---|
| Fingersticks for testing of blood sugar | gloves |
| Hemoglobin A1C (CLIA-waived testing) | gloves |
| Injections for flu, pneumonia, insulin, cortrosyn, thyrogen, testosterone, Prolia, Lupron, Estradiol, Evenity | gloves |
| Simple dressing changes to foot ulcers | gloves |
| FNA of thyroid (Done by physicians) | gloves, goggles, face shield (physician preference) |
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