

EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
INFECTION CONTROL POLICY

Department: Pharmacy Services

Date Originated: September 13, 2007

Date Approved: 12/4/07

Date Reviewed: 12/7/10

12/1/15, 9/2022

Page 1 of 6

Approved by:

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 ECU Health Medical Center's 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: Pharmacy Clinics are in the following locations:

Family Practice Pharmacy
Family Medicine Center
101 Heart Drive
Greenville, NC 27834

ECU Pharmacy
517 Moye Blvd
Greenville, NC 27834

LJCC Pharmacy
Room #240, LJCC
600 Moye Blvd
Greenville, NC 27834

- B. Isolation room location.: none

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.

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. Vacutainer holders will not be reused.

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.

- 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. Personal protective equipment that includes gloves, gowns, masks and eyewear or face shield, will be available for employees, non-employees and students. Personal protective equipment is located in Pharmacy Services.
- 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 the respective Pharmacy Services area.
- B. Dirty disposable supplies are placed in red biohazard containers.
- C. This clinic does not have an autoclave: Only single use, disposable medical equipment will be used.
- D. Equipment is inspected periodically and repaired or replaced as necessary. Non-reusable contaminated equipment will be discarded in appropriate containers.
- E. Each area 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.
- F. Sharp disposal units will be located at each flu vaccine clinic. 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.
- G. The red bag trash for soft materials and sharps disposal units will be picked up by

ECU Biohazard Waste technicians.

APPENDIX A
Minimum PPE Required for Commonly Performed Procedures

Common Procedures	Minimum Equipment Needed
Vaccine Administration (IM and Subcutaneous injections)	gloves
Finger stick blood glucose	gloves