

**EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY**

**INFECTION CONTROL POLICY**

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**East Carolina Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic**

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Approved by:

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Chairman of Infection Control Committee

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Infection Control, RN

## **PURPOSE**

To protect patients, staff, and students from infection

## **PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

**Hand washing facilities:** These are located in the clinic restrooms. In addition, waterless hand sanitizing agents will be available in all clinical areas.

**Separation of clean and soiled activities:** The Clinic only stores items associated with clean activities. Soiled items are either disposable and discarded after use, or cleaned following use with an approved disinfectant.

**Traffic Control:** No unauthorized individuals will be allowed in the clinic evaluation and/or treatment rooms.

**Cleaning Schedule:** Clinical areas and restrooms will be cleaned daily by ECU Facilities Services.

**Cleaning between patients:** Any disposable items used by patients that are not contaminated (e.g., otoscope specula, earphone tips) will be discarded immediately after use into plastic-lined trash cans which are emptied daily. The majority of patient use items are disposable. Non-disposable items (some impedance ear tips) and clinical surfaces that are contacted by patients will be disinfected and/or sterilized according to guidelines.

## **EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES**

All infection control supplies will be obtained from the stockroom and stored in a cabinet in the Clinical Suite.

Personal protective equipment is located in a cabinet in the Clinical Suite and in the Audiology Clinic.

The Clinic Suite will have appropriately labeled contaminated trashcans (red bag) and non-contaminated trashcans (clear or brown bag).

Clinical tools and/or supplies will be considered “contaminated” when they have been directly exposed to “infectious waste”, including blood, pus, saliva, and/or other body fluids. Any contaminated non-sharp disposable tools or supplies will go in the red bag trash, and any non-contaminated disposables will go in the clear or brown bag trash.

All oral-motor exams will be done with gloved hands. Disposable latex and non-latex gloves

will be available for use. After use, non-contaminated gloves will be discarded immediately into plastic-lined non-contaminated trashcans that are emptied daily.

After use, tissues and tongue blades that are not contaminated shall be discarded into plastic-lined non-contaminated trashcans that are emptied daily.

Disposable audiometric ear tips and electrodes (e.g., impedance, otoacoustic emissions, insert earphone tips, specula) that are not contaminated will be discarded after patient use into non-contaminated plastic-lined trashcans that are emptied daily.

Brainstem Auditory Evoked Response electrodes (flat surface electrodes) that are non-disposable will be cleaned in soap and water immediately after each use and disinfected with alcohol.

The audiometer headphones and bone conduction vibrator will be cleaned with alcohol between patient uses. Disposable headphone covers may also be used to prevent transmission contact with headphone use.

Assistive listening device equipment will be cleaned and disinfected in an approved disinfectant between patient uses.

Clinicians will wear gloves during clinical activities when there are open cuts/sores on the skin of the patient or clinician, when either one has an infectious disease or when there is the possibility of contact with bodily fluids. Gloves also are worn when cleaning, disinfecting, or sterilizing equipment.

Patient hearing aids and ear molds will be received in a gloved hand, paper envelope, or container and wiped with a disinfectant wipe prior to examination.

Augmentative aid covers on Vocaid and VOIS equipment will be removed and thoroughly washed and disinfected with approved disinfectant before being reassigned to another patient.

After use, reusable ear tips that are not contaminated are cleaned and placed in a disinfectant solution bath located in the Audiology Clinic Test Suite.

Reusable tools and tips that are contaminated will be placed in a disinfectant sealed tub on the upper shelf in the VTR room. The Audiology Clinic Director will be notified that these items need to be sterilized, and then she will place them in the closed cover sterilization bath on the upper shelf in the VTR room.

Sterilization of contaminated non-sharp, non-disposables will take place in a covered-lid bath of Glutaraldehyde Solution. The sterilization bath will be located on an upper shelf in the VTR room within the Clinical Suite.

Equipment will be inspected regularly and repaired or replaced as necessary.

A Sharps disposal unit is located in the Neuroscience lab unit in the Clinic Suite.

## **PERSONNEL**

### **Immunizations**

All employees will comply with pre-employment and annual health screening. Refer to the Occupational Health Services policy for Occupational Health requirements for all department personnel.

### **Clothing**

All staff and students will follow the Department Dress Code Policy.

Disposable gowns are to be used during procedures where body fluids may splash.

Eye shields are to be worn during procedures where body fluid or debris may make contact with the eyes.

### **Precautions in patient areas to avoid spread of disease.**

All personnel will wash their hands with appropriate cleansers before and after every patient.

### **Appropriate In-service**

During clinic orientation, students and staff will receive training on the principles and methods of infection control within the department and areas served by the department.

On-going in-service education should be attended by all students and staff concerning infection control techniques or procedures useful to the members of this particular department.

Each student and staff member must attend an annual inservice on infection control.

## **PATIENTS**

All patients being transported to East Carolina who are susceptible to infection (i.e., burns, open wounds) shall have opened areas covered and secretions contained. Patients on AFB, or Airborne Precautions, will be required to wear a mask when being seen in this clinic.

No service will be refused because barriers are in effect.

## **MONITORING PLAN FOR STAFF COMPLIANCE TO UNIVERSAL STANDARD PRECAUTIONS**

Random monitoring will be ongoing and reviewed annually by the Director of Clinical Operations and Audiology Clinic Director.

Faculty, staff, and students will be informed of the results of the monitoring at the end of each

academic year by the aforementioned directors.

### **REVIEW OF POLICY**

The Infection Control Policy for the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders will be reviewed every 3 years or as needed.