Indiana State Department of Health
Epidemiology Resource Center

Universal Precautions: Patients' Rights

Health care facilities providing services in which there is a risk of skin, eye, mucous membrane, or parenteral contact to human blood or other potentially infectious materials must practice Universal Precautions. Universal Precautions prevent disease transmission through the use of infection control practices for all patients.

Grossnickle Eye Center, Inc. Complies with infection control practices required by the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), which were adopted by Indiana law, Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration (IOSHA), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations. The following infection control practices include, but are not limited to, those required by the Indiana Universal Precautions rule 410 IAC 1-5-6b and are used to prevent transmission of bloodborne pathogens to patients and treating staff:

PROTECTIVE BARRIERS ARE USED -- Includes the appropriate use of gloves for skin contact, masks, gowns, laboratory coats, and protective eyewear (or face shields) for procedures that may have the potential of creating a spray or splatter of blood or other potentially infectious materials.

HAND HYGIENE -- Hands are washed both before and after each patient contact.

INSTRUMENTS ARE STERILIZED AFTER EACH USE -- Contaminated, heat stable, non-disposable instruments which require sterilization and are contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious materials are heat sterilized after each patient use. Single use, disposable equipment and products are preferred.

PREVENT INJURIES BY SHARPS -- Discard needles, syringes, and other contaminated sharp objects in a puncture-resistant container.

SURFACES AND EQUIPMENT ARE CLEANED AND DISINFECTED AFTER EACH PATIENT USE -- Surfaces and equipment contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious materials that cannot be sterilized are cleaned and disinfected after each patient use. Disposable coverings may be used on some surfaces to prevent contamination.

INFECTIOUS WASTE IS PLACED IN PROPER CONTAINERS -- Containers should be labeled with the biohazard symbol, and are impervious to moisture, and of sufficient strength to prevent discharge.

INFECTIOUS WASTE CONTAINERS -- Containers are stored in a secured area prior to final disposal.

STAFF RECEIVE ANNUAL TRAINING -- Infection control training is refreshed every year.

The infection control procedures listed, and others that are not readily observable, protect you from disease transmission. Indiana law requires that health care facilities be committed to appropriate use of Universal Precautions. Any deviation from this commitment should be brought to the attention of facility administrator at this facility.

If you are not satisfied with the explanation of universal precautions provided by this facility, you may file an official complaint in writing with the Indiana State Department of Health.

Mail or FAX Complaints to:
Indiana State Department of Health: Exposure Control Coordinator
2 North Meridian Street Indianapolis, IN 46204 FAX: 317.234.2812
For questions please call: 317.234.2804

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