

# POLICY MANUAL

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**Subject:** Universal Precautions

**Effective Date:** 6/90

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**Initiated By:** Cindy Stewart  
Associate Clinical Director

**Approved By:** William C. Anderson  
Medical Director

**Review Dates:** 1/93 NGC; 1/94 NGC;  
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**Revision Dates:** 2/97 CSF; 07/05 JL

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## POLICY:

All Cumberland Heights staff adheres to the Universal Precautions guidelines recommend by the Center for Disease Control. The CDC document "Recommendations for Prevention of HIV Transmission in Health-Care Settings" is incorporated in entirety by reference. The CDC update on Universal Precautions is also incorporated in entirety by reference. Patients are also given information as to Universal Precautions during education sessions. Staff are given information as to Universal Precautions during employee orientation and annually thereafter.

## PROCEDURE:

1. Appropriate barrier precautions to prevent skin and mucous membrane exposure when contact with blood or other body fluids is anticipated are used as follows:
  - a) Gloves are worn for touching blood or body fluids, mucous membranes, or non-intact skin of all patients, for handling items or surfaces soiled with blood or body fluids, and for performing venipuncture and other vascular access procedures. Gloves should be changed after contact with each patient.
  - b) Masks and protective eye wear is worn during procedures that are likely to generate droplets of blood or other body fluids to prevent exposure of mucous membranes of the mouth, nose and eyes.
  - c) Gowns are worn during procedures that are likely to generate splashes of blood or other body fluids.
2. Hands and other skin surfaces are washed immediately and thoroughly if contaminated with blood or other body fluids. Hands are washed immediately after gloves are removed (see Hand Washing policy).
3. Only safety device needles are used at Cumberland Heights' sites. After use, they are placed in puncture-resistant containers available in the nursing and laboratory stations, as well as at designated areas in the outpatient sites.
4. One-way airflow masks are available throughout the residential site and at each outpatient location for the purpose of CPR resuscitation if needed.
5. Personnel who have exudative lesions or seeping dermatitis do not provide direct patient care or handle patient care equipment until this condition resolves.
6. Staff attend an in-service on Infection Control during the initial employee orientation and annually thereafter. This in-service includes information on the practice of Universal Precautions.