

GUIDANCE AT A GLANCE- STANDARD PRECAUTIONS

These guidelines support the prevention and control of infection in community and primary care settings. The principles reflect best practice/national guidelines.

KEY POINTS

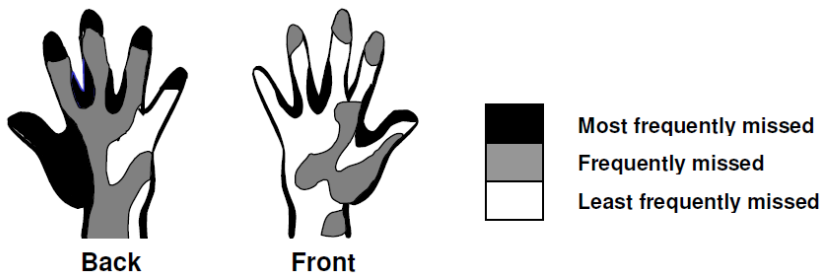
Standard Precautions are a range of measures that reduce the risk of transmission of infection from known and unknown sources. They are basic Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) precautions and should be used for all patients.

ALL blood and body fluids are potentially infectious.

Standard Precautions

Hand hygiene

Effective hand decontamination significantly reduces infection rates. See the WHO 'Five Moments for hand hygiene'. Technique is vital – this should cover all areas of the hands including the wrists.



Alcohol hand rubs should *not* be used if the patient has diarrhoea and/or vomiting as they are ineffective.

Key standards to meet include: keep nails short; sleeves rolled up; no nail varnish/gel /false nails; no stoned rings, no watches/bracelets. Hand washing facilities should be dedicated, of adequate size and supplied with liquid soap and paper towels.



Sharps safety

Adopt the following procedures to reduce risk of injury:

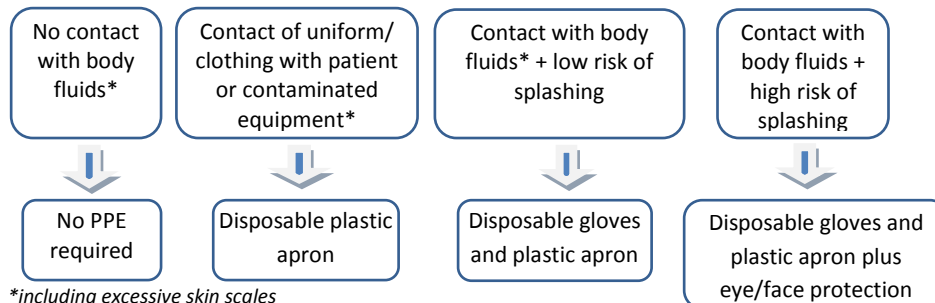
- YOUR sharps are YOUR responsibility. YOU dispose of them at the point of care
- Never resheath or bend needles prior to disposal
- Use sharps safety devices (EU directive 2013) where available, ensuring staff are suitably trained.

The BIN

- Use the temporary closure mechanism between use to reduce the risk of accidental spillage
- Sign and date the bin on assembly + closure. Close when the fill line is reached.
- Store the bin out of the reach of children and NOT on radiators/sunny window ledges (heat can damage the fabric of the bin)

Personal Protective Equipment

Consists of gloves, disposable aprons, face protection. What is worn is dependent on a 'risk assessment' of the task to be performed to establish if there is to be contact with blood or other body fluids:



*including excessive skin scales

PPE should be changed between procedures.

Blood and bodily fluids spillage

Ideally a 'spill kit' would be kept for a blood or body fluid spillage. If you do not have one: wear PPE, mop up excess spill with paper towels, ventilate the area and disinfect with a chlorine releasing agent following the manufacturer's instructions (usually 10,000 ppm), followed by detergent and water and allow to dry.