

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE



Nottinghamshire Hospice
adding life to days

SOP - 011	
Subject	Blood, Body Fluids and Vaccine Spillages SOP (This SOP is subject to periodic review and will be amended according to service development needs)
Applicable to	This SOP applies to all staff, volunteers and contractors who work for or provide care on behalf of Nottinghamshire Hospice.
Date issued	Feb 2022
Next review date	Jan 2025
Lead responsible for Policy	Director of Care
Policy Reviewed by	Infection Prevention and Control Team - Nottingham CityCare Partnership Care Service Team
Notified to	Quality and Safety Group
Authorised by	Board of Trustees
Links to other Policies	Infection Prevention and Control Policy
Summary	This document aims to provide a clear understanding of Nottinghamshire Hospices Infection Control Policy in regard to management of blood, bodily fluids and vaccine spillages.
Target Audience	The policy aimed at all staff, volunteers and contractors who work for or provide care on behalf of Nottinghamshire Hospice

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Staff should always refer to the website or folder on the 'N' drive for the most up to date information. If the review date of this policy or procedure has expired staff should seek advice from their clinical lead or manager regarding the appropriate action to be taken.

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1. Purpose

Body fluids are a source of infectious micro-organisms (bacteria, viruses and fungi) and we should therefore assume that everything that might be in contact with body fluids is contaminated (Health and Safety Executive, 2011). It is for this reason the correct management of body fluid spills should be undertaken to minimise the risk to both the general public and healthcare staff. The Health and Social Care Act 2018 reinforces the need for staff to have access to appropriate guidance and information that will help to prevent and control infections.

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been devised from best practice and information sourced in the reference list. It is intended to provide information to staff to safely and effectively manage spillages in a variety of settings in which care is delivered.

The SOP will outline the procedure for the management of blood, body fluid and vaccine spillages and applies to all clinical staff that may be required to perform this procedure as part of their role.

2. Evidence base and interaction with other policies and procedures

Nottinghamshire Hospice, Hand Hygiene Policy

Nottinghamshire Hospice, Decontamination of Non-Invasive Medical Equipment and the Environment SOP

Nottinghamshire Hospice, Personal Protective Equipment SOP.

Nottinghamshire Hospice Safe Sharps and Blood Borne Virus Policy

Nottinghamshire Hospice Waste Management Policy.

Health and Safety Executive (2011) Cleaning up Body Fluids

Health Care Social Care Act (2018) Department of Health

3. Definitions

Bio-Hazard/ous – Biological substances that pose a risk to the health of living organisms

4. Scope and Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of all healthcare workers to take reasonable precautions to protect themselves and patients from accidental exposure to blood and body fluids. The healthcare worker needs to anticipate where spills are likely to occur and to take action to reduce or eliminate the risk. In clinical areas it is the responsibility of the nursing staff/healthcare professionals to ensure that spillages of blood, vomit, urine, faeces, any other body fluids and vaccine spills are cleaned up promptly and safely. The cleaning procedure may be delegated to the domestic/housekeeping staff but only if they have had the relevant training, and only if they are available at the time of the spillage, do not wait for cleaning staff to start work. When spillages occur outside clinical areas but within the buildings used by the organisation, the staff on duty who are attending to the individual are responsible for ensuring that the spillage is dealt with properly in accordance with this SOP.

The organisation uses three specific products which contain the necessary equipment to manage a spillage. By standardising the products in use staff will be aware of how the products should be used and the risk factors of incorrect management and usage will be minimised.

The Guest Medical Spill Pak (see appendix 1)

Consists of granules which are used to soak up the spill; and tablets when dissolved that will provide a solution of 10,000 parts per million available chlorine to clean the area, this is recommended or for use on:

- Blood spillages.

Due to the bleaching effects of NaDCC, the Guest Medical Spill Pak should only be used on hard surfaces or equipment that can tolerate a hypochlorite (bleach) solution. If unsure; check with the manufacturer's cleaning and decontamination guidance before use.

The Guest Medical Urine and Vomit Spill Pak (see appendix 2)

Consists of perlite granules with cross-linked polyacrylate mixture to soak up the spill; and alcohol surface disinfectant wipes containing Isopropyl alcohol BP to clean the area which is recommended for disinfecting:

- Urine spillages.
- Vomit spillages.

The isopropyl alcohol BP ingredients of the surface wipes in the Guest Medical Urine and Vomit Spill Paks may affect fabrics. If unsure; check with the manufacturer's cleaning and decontamination guidance before use.

Hazards/Risks

The spillage management products contain chemicals which are may be harmful to health, therefore before using the product the individual needs to be aware of potential risks and the necessary health and safety actions required to use it safely. The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) (2002) requires that information on potential risks and safety data are provided.

Procedures

Blood or Body Fluid Splashes (containing blood) to Skin and Mucous Membranes:

On Intact Skin: The spill must be washed off with copious amounts of warm water and soap, paying particular attention if fingernails are involved. No further action is necessary.

On Skin Breaks/Open Areas: The spill must be washed off with copious amounts of warm water and soap. Where blood is present then an incident form should be completed and advice sought from COPE, Nottinghamshire Hospice Occupational Health service.

Splashes to Mucous Membranes

Splashes of blood or body fluids entering the eye should be removed immediately by irrigation. If contact lenses are worn these should be removed. Sterile saline "eye wash" packs should be used if available; or running mains water (drinking water) can be used instead. Irrigation should

be continued until all traces of the contaminating material have been removed. The incident must then be reported to your line manager and Occupational Health. An Incident form should also be completed.

COPE Occupational Health and Ergonomic Services Ltd, Unit 3, Beeston Business Park, Technology Drive, Beeston, Nottingham, NG9 2ND. Tel: 0115 9259222, Fax: 0115 9252111

If the incident occurs out of hours, bank holidays or at a weekend advice should be sought from Nottingham University Hospital Specialist Registrar for the Emergency Department, QMC via the Switchboard – 0115 9249924.

Blood Spillages to Surfaces

All blood spillage must be regarded as potentially hazardous and should be dealt with using the Guest Medical Spill Pak.

Appendix 1. Guest Medical Spill Pak for Blood:

Step	Action	Rationale/outcome	Risk management / additional direction
1.	Check expiry date and pay attention to instructions included. Apply gloves and apron, and risk assess if eye and face protection is required.	Reduces risk of cross infection and complies with health and safety.	Eye and face protection will be required if there is a risk of splashing
2.	Pour the absorbent granules over the spill and leave for no more than 2 minutes.	To activate the absorption.	
3.	Add the chlorine tablets to the empty granule container and carefully fill with water to the fill line. Allow 2 minutes for the tablets to dissolve.	To aid cleaning.	Where possible ensure environment is ventilated
4.	Peel back the strip on the waste bag to allow the bag to be adhered to a surface, keep the strip as this acts as a tie once the bag is full.	Safe preparation	
5.	Ensure bag is as close to the spill as possible Collect the spill using the scooper and scraper, discard into the waste bag.	To ensure safe disposal of waste.	
6.	Ensure the tablets have dissolved in the container, place the lid back on and invert to mix the solution. Do not shake	Ensure solution ready for use.	
7.	Use the solution with the paper towels to wipe the area of the spill.	To aid cleaning	
8.	Discard all materials in the appropriate clinical waste bag including gloves and apron and tie the bag.	To ensure safe disposal of waste	
9.	Decontaminate hands	To prevent cross infection	

Appendix 2. Guest Medical Spill Pak for Urine and Vomit Spillages:

The Urine and Vomit Spill Pak is **NOT** for use on Blood Spillages.

G Guest Medical Tel: 01732 867 466

URINE AND VOMIT SPILL PAK

NOT FOR USE ON BLOOD SPILLS!

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Always wear gloves and an apron.
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Sprinkle NQ64 granules all over the spill until all the moisture is completely absorbed.
Leave for 30 to 60 seconds
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Peel backing strip away from yellow disposal bag and attach bag to wall or table. Allow to hang open. Retain backing strip to act as a tie.
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Collect spill and granules mixture using scoop and scraper.
Discard all into the yellow disposal bag.
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Use the surface wipes to disinfect the area of the spill and remove any smears.
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Place all materials, gloves last, into the disposal bag.
Use backing strip for a tie.
The bag and contents must be destroyed by incineration.

The Bag and contents must then be placed into a clinical waste bin. Ensure hands are decontaminated after disposal of waste.