Blood and Body Fluid Spillage Procedure

(IPC Manual)
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1. INTRODUCTION

Occupational exposure to blood, other body fluids, secretions and excretions (except sweat) through spillages, poses a potential risk of infection, particularly to those who may be exposed to these substances.

Substances classed as **high risk** include:

- Blood/any visibly blood stained fluids
- Breast milk
- Amniotic fluid
- Vaginal secretions
- Semen
- Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)
- Synovial fluid
- Pericardial fluid
- Pleural fluid
- Peritoneal fluid
- Unfixed tissues/organs
- Saliva (associated with dentistry).

Substances classed as **low risk** (unless visibly blood stained) include:

- Vomit
- Sputum
- Saliva
- Urine
- Faeces
- Tears

Spillages can occur anywhere in the health and social care setting and it is vital that any spillage is attended to in a safe and timely manner. If the spillage cannot be dealt with immediately the area affected must be cordoned off and not left unattended whilst assistance is obtained. For the management of spillages to be undertaken safely, pathogens in the spillage must first be destroyed by a disinfectant.

In clinical areas this is the responsibility of clinical staff. In all other areas only staff who are fully vaccinated against Hepatitis B and who are competent to do so should deal with blood and/or body fluid spillages. It is the responsibility of all staff to ensure that their immunisation status for Hepatitis B is up to date. This can be obtained by contacting the Occupational Health provider.

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) assessments must be carried out on all chemical disinfectants used and manufacturer’s instructions must always be followed in regards to storage, preparation, usage and first aid in the event of exposure. COSHH data sheets must be held locally.
2. PROCEDURE

2.1 Products

Trust approved products for managing spillages are:

- **Clinell Universal Wipes**: for small spillages of blood or visibly blood stained body fluids (surface area smaller than a 2p coin). Follow manufacturer’s instructions (appendix 44)

- **Clinell Spill Wipes**: for large blood and visibly blood stained body fluid spillages, including urine and vomit (surface area larger than a 2p coin). Follow manufacturer’s instructions (appendix 45)

- **Guest Medical or GV Blood Spillage Packs**: follow manufacturer’s instructions as illustrated on packet. These kits must not be used on chemical or urine/vomit spillages, as a chlorine vapour will be released.

- **Haz-tab Solution (10,000 parts per million (ppm))**: follow manufacturer’s instructions (appendix 8)

- **Chlor-Clean Solution (1,000 ppm)**: for disinfection of the environment. Follow manufacturer’s instructions (appendix 7)

- **Disposable Paper Towels**: for spillages with no visible blood

- **Hospec Detergent

2.2 General Guidance

For management of all spillages (categories listed below) staff **must**:

- Ensure all cuts and lesions are covered with a waterproof dressing

- Don personal protective equipment (PPE) e.g. disposable gloves and apron and wear eye/face protection if there is a risk of splash

- Use the most appropriate product for the spillage

- Ensure that all products are in date and replenished after use

- Dispose of used products/waste into appropriate waste stream followed by PPE. In the patient’s own home permission must be obtained prior to disposal of used/products waste into the patient’s domestic waste stream

- Decontaminate hands using soap and water/hand wipes or hand rub if not visibly contaminated
• Follow manufacturers’ instructions

Supporting information can also be found in the Cleaning and Decontamination of the Environment and Patient Equipment procedure.

2.3 Small blood and visibly blood stained body fluid spillages on hard surfaces (surface area smaller than a 2p coin)

• Remove spillage using a Clinell Universal Wipe

2.4 Small blood and visibly blood stained body fluid spillages on carpets and soft furnishings (surface area smaller than a 2p coin)

• Remove spillage using a Clinell Universal Wipe
• Carpets and soft furnishings in the healthcare setting should then be cleaned at the earliest opportunity using a carpet cleaner and/or steam cleaned and cushions/covers, curtains etc. must be laundered according to the Laundry Policy, accessed via this link: https://www.rdash.nhs.uk/23733/laundry-policy/
• In the patient’s own home advise steam cleaning and laundering of soft furnishings
• Haz-tab solution or blood spillage packs must not be used on soft furnishings/carpets except where chlorine resistant fabrics are specified

2.5 Large blood and visibly blood stained body fluid spillages on hard surfaces (surface area larger than a 2p coin)

• Absorb spill using Clinell Spill Wipe(s)
• Clean area with Clinell Universal Wipes or Chlor-clean diluted to 1000ppm
• If a Guest Medical or GV blood spillage kit is used follow the instructions on the packet.

2.6 Large blood and visibly blood stained body fluid spillages on carpets and soft furnishings (surface area larger than a 2p coin)

• Absorb spill using Clinell Spill Wipe(s)
• Carpets and soft furnishings in the healthcare setting should then be cleaned at the earliest opportunity using a carpet cleaner and/or steam cleaned and cushions/covers, curtains etc. must be laundered according to the Laundry Policy
• In the patient’s own home advise steam cleaning and laundering of soft furnishing
• Haz-tab solution or blood spillage packs must not be used on soft furnishings/carpets except where chlorine resistant fabrics are specified
2.7 **Body fluids spillage with no visible blood on hard surfaces**

- Absorb spill using paper towels
- Clean area with Clinell Universal Wipe(s) or hot water and neutral detergent using a disposable cloth. Rinse and dry the area
- In the patient’s own home the patient may use whatever cleaning products are available

2.8 **Body fluids spillage with no visible blood on carpets and soft furnishings**

- Absorb spill using paper towels
- Clean area with Clinell Universal Wipe(s)
- Carpets and soft furnishings in the healthcare setting should then be cleaned at the earliest opportunity using a carpet cleaner and/or steam cleaned and cushions/covers, curtains etc. must be laundered according to the Laundry policy
- In the patient’s own home the patient may use whatever cleaning products are available

2.9 **Spillages of Blood and Body Fluids in Vehicles**

If a spillage occurs in transit, whether a Trust owned vehicle or a staff member’s personal vehicle then it must be dealt with using appropriate Trust approved products, as mentioned in section 2.1. It may be that the vehicle warrants a professional clean and this must not be undertaken without prior manager approval.

3. **DEFINITIONS**

**Blood borne viruses** – includes such organisms as Hepatitis B, C or Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

**Pathogens** – a microbe capable of causing infection and/or disease

4. **RESPONSIBILITIES, ACCOUNTABILITIES AND DUTIES**

Refer to the home page, section 4, of the Infection Prevention and Control Policy

5. **LINKS TO ASSOCIATED POLICIES/DOCUMENTS**


6. REFERENCES/FURTHER READING


Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (Amendment) Regulations 2004.


7. APPENDICES

To access the following Appendices please see IPC Manual homepage https://www.rdash.nhs.uk/46192/infection-prevention-and-control-manual/

Appendix 8 – Haz-Tab Poster
Appendix 7 - Chlor-Clean Poster
Appendix 44 - Clinell Universal Wipes - Instructions for Use
Appendix 45 - Clinell Spill Wipes – Instructions for Use