1. PURPOSE:
   To reduce the transmission of microorganisms and prevent exposure to potentially infectious agents through blood and body fluid spills.

2. DEFINITIONS:
   2.1 Aerosolization: To disperse or discharge as a fine mist or spray which contains minute particles.

   2.2 Cleaning: The physical removal of foreign material, e.g., dust, soil and organic material such as blood, secretions, excretions and microorganisms. Cleaning physically removes rather than kills microorganisms. Cleaning reduces or eliminates the reservoirs of potential pathogenic organisms. It is accomplished with water, detergents and mechanical action.

   2.3 Disinfection: The inactivation of disease producing organisms. Disinfection does not destroy all bacterial spores. Disinfectants are used on inanimate objects. Disinfection usually involves chemicals, heat or ultraviolet light. Levels of chemical disinfection vary with the type of product/item used.

   2.4 Disposable Absorbent Material: Material such as paper towels, rags, sand or absorbent polymers that are available in a commercially prepared blood spill kits.

   2.5 Facility Approved Disinfectant: A disinfectant cleaner that meets the criteria for appropriate type and concentration and is approved by the facility/organization.

   2.6 Healthcare Worker: an individual who provides direct care to patients/clients/residents in the healthcare workplace i.e. nurses, doctors, allied health
2.7 **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Gloves, gowns, masks and protective eyewear and face protection used according to risk of exposure to prevent transmission of infection.

3. **OPERATIONAL DIRECTIVE:**

3.1 Mixed spills containing blood and body fluids and cytotoxic or antineoplastic waste are cleaned according to WRHA Cytotoxic Agents, Safe Handling Policy #110.160.010 for blood and body fluids clean up.

3.2 All spilled blood and other body fluids must be cleaned up immediately.

3.3 The health care worker who first encounters the spill is responsible for ensuring it is cleaned and disinfected appropriately.

3.4 Appropriate PPE shall be worn for the clean up of blood and other body fluid spills as per WRHA Routine Practices Policy #90.00.060.

4. **PROCEDURE:**

4.1 Assess the type, location and size of spill.

4.2 Contain the spill and section off the area immediately, as appropriate.

4.3 Wear appropriate PPE. This will include gloves, gown, mask and eye protection if splashing is likely. For large spills, rubber boots or shoe covers may be necessary.

4.4 Avoid activities which may generate aerosols during cleaning and disinfection.

4.5 Clean all spills of blood/body fluid or any other soiling material before applying disinfectant. To remove excess blood and body fluids for spills:

4.5.1 Involving a smaller area on carpets or upholstery - soak up as much blood/body fluid as possible with disposable absorbent material. Scoop mixture into a garbage bag or plastic lined receptacle and discard in regular waste.

4.5.2 Involving a larger area - use a mop and pail.

4.5.3 In community areas and facility grounds - cover with disposable absorbent material and allow time to absorb spill. Scoop mixture into garbage bag, secure bag and discard in regular waste.

4.6 Use appropriate tools i.e. tongs or forceps for spills involving sharps or broken glass. For detailed instructions, see WRHA Sharps, Safe handling, Use and Disposal Policy #20.20.020

4.7 Disinfect after cleaning by pouring facility approved disinfectant directly onto the spill area.

4.7.1 Allow contact time according to manufacturer’s recommended instructions.
4.7.2 Cover and saturate the spill area completely without spreading the spill.
4.7.3 Wipe the area with disposable absorbent material and dispose of in a plastic lined waste receptacle.
4.7.4 For carpets and upholstery, use of an industrial strength HEPA filtered wetvac is recommended to remove the disinfectant. Upholstery or carpeting that cannot be disinfected as described above as well as damaged wooden surfaces must be replaced once contaminated with blood/body fluids.

4.8 If facility approved disinfectant requires rinsing, use a clean mop head and put clean water in the dedicated pail to rinse the area. For smaller spills, use a clean cloth with clean water to rinse.

4.9 Display appropriate signage until area is dry or have personnel secure the area.

4.10 Dispose of water and reprocess pail and mop head according to facility/organization policies and procedures. Avoid splashing during clean-up procedures.

4.11 Clean the wetvac nozzle, hose and receptacle with facility approved disinfectant. Allow to air dry.

4.12 Remove and discard all PPE.
   4.12.1 Reusable gloves must be thoroughly washed with soap and warm water and then hung to dry. If they are punctured or torn, they must be discarded.

4.13 Perform hand hygiene after gloves are removed.

5. REFERENCES

5.1 Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology Inc., 3rd edn., (2009) APIC Text of Infection Control and Epidemiology. Available at: http://www.apic.org/


5.4 Cleanup of Blood and Body Fluid Spills, Concordia General Hospital, Winnipeg, MB (2001) Policy # S – 8.0
