CARESTAT, LLC HOME HEALTH

TYPE OF MANUAL: Compliance Manual (Rules and Regulations)	
SECTION: XVI. Infection Control Policies	
SUBJECT: 8. Transmission of HIV/HBV	
NEW: XXXX or REVISION:	EFFECTIVE DATE: 01/01/2004

Policy

The guidelines for caring of those patients with Hepatitis B will be adhered to by all employees.

Definitions

1. *Hand washing facilities:* a facility providing an adequate supply of running water, soap, and single use towels.
2. *Nursing Units:* Consists of clean/dirty utility rooms, central bathing units, resident rooms, corridors, nursing stations, during rooms, activity rooms, and any other rooms which are used by residents.
3. *Occupational Exposure:* Reasonably anticipated skin, eye, mucous membrane, or parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that may result from the performance of an employee's work duties.
4. *Parenteral:* The piercing of the skin barrier (including mucous membranes).
5. *Personal Protective Equipment*: Specialized clothing or equipment worn by an individual to protect from a hazard.
6. *Production facility:* A family engaged in industrial-scale, large-volume or high concentration production of HIV or HBV.
7. *Regulated waste:* Any one of the following:
   a. Liquid or semi-liquid blood or other potentially infectious materials.
   b. Contaminated items that would release with blood or other potentially infectious materials in a liquid or semi-liquids state, if compressed.
   c. Objects caked with dried blood or other potentially infectious materials which are capable of releasing these materials during handling.
   d. Contaminated sharps.
   e. Pathological and microbiological wastes containing blood or other potentially infectious materials.
8. *Research laboratory:* A facility engaged in activities such as producing or using research laboratory scale amounts of HIV or HBV.
9. *Source individual:* Any individual, living or dead, whose blood or other potentially infectious materials may be a source of occupational exposure to the employee.
10. *Sterilize:* The use of a physical or chemical procedure to destroy all microbial life, including highly resistant bacterial endospores.
11. *Universal precaution:* A method of infection control in which all human blood and certain blood and certain body fluids are treated as if known to be infectious for HIV, HBV, and other bloodborne pathogens.

12. *Work practice controls:* Controls that reduce the likelihood of exposure by altering the manner in which a task is performed.

Purpose

Hepatitis means "inflammation of the liver" and can be caused by a number o factors including drugs, toxins, autoimmune disease, and infectious agents, particularly viruses. The most common causes of hepatitis are viruses and can be spread via several routes including:

1. Sexual contact, both homosexual and heterosexual.
2. Shared needles among IV drug users.
3. Direct inoculation into the skin by a sharp contaminated object with infectious blood or body fluids, such as in a needle stick.
4. From infected mother to newborn.
5. From the contaminated blood or body fluids of a person infected with Hepatitis B.
6. Blood transfusions from a donor infected with Hepatitis B.

Workers who are at risk for HBV are those who have a high level of exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials. However, the risk of contracting the disease is almost eliminated by a series of vaccinations.
The risk factors for HIV transmission are essentially the same as the risk factors associated with HBV. Despite these similarities, however, the risk for an employee contracting HBV is much higher than for HIV. There is no evidence that HBV is transmitted by casual contact, by airborne routes, or through contaminated food and water. Employees are exposed to HBV only to the extent that they are in contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials.
The following guidelines are recommended for use with all patients, either identified as infectious or not, to prevent transmission of the infectious agent.

Procedure

1. Wear gloves if there is a possibility of direct contact with blood or bodily secretions (pus, sputum, urine, feces, blood, saliva, etc.). Wash as soon as possible if anticipated contact with these body substances occurs.
2. Protect clothing with gowns or plastic aprons if there is a possibility of being splashed.
3. Wear masks and/or goggles to avoid being splashed, includes during suctioning and irrigations.
4. Wash hands thoroughly before and after all patient contact.
5. Do not break needles into receptacles, rather, discard them in tact and uncapped into containers.
6. Place all contaminated articles and trash in leak proof bags. Check Agency's policy regarding hazardous waste disposal.
7. Clean spills quickly with bleach or hydrogen peroxide.

Caring for Patients with Hepatitis B

Equipment

1. Gloves
2. Disposable gown or apron
3. Protective eyewear
4. Specimen container if needed
5. Plastic bag for transport of specimen

6. Bleach Solution (Clorox)

Procedure

1. Wash hands before and after patient care and after disposing of soiled materials.
2. Wear disposable gloves for any procedure.
    a. Wear double gloves if tearing is likely during the procedure.
    b. If staff member has any type of open wounds or weeping dermatitis she should not administer care (even with gloves) until condition is resolved.
3. Wear disposable gown or apron to protect clothing from soilage.
4. Put on protective eyewear if splattering is anticipated during the procedure (suctioning, wound irrigations, etc.)
5. Collect specimens in appropriate container labeled "Blood and Body Fluid Precautions."
6. Use extraordinary care to avoid puncture wounds with needles and other sharp objects.
    a. If puncture occurs, bleed wound, wash with soap and water.
    b. Notify supervisor immediately and fill out incident report.
7. Clean spills of blood and body fluids with 1:10 bleach solution (1 part liquid bleach and 9 parts water). Make solution fresh each time.
8. Wash eating utensils (dishes and silverware) in hot soapy water. Water should be hot enough to need gloves to tolerate the temperature. No other special precautions are required.
9. Store linens and laundry soiled with body fluids in a plastic bag and then wash separately with very hot water. Use a detergent and a 1:10 bleach solution (Clorox II is acceptable or colored clothing).
10. Dispose of gown, apron, etc., in a plastic bag after completing care.
11. Take off gloves by peeling them down and turning them inside out so that contaminated side is on the inside. Place in plastic bag.

Cleansing Equipment in the Home Setting

Equipment

1. Article to be cleansed
2. Soap
3. Running water
4. Paper towels
5. Plastic bags
6. Disposable gloves

Procedure

1. Wear gloves when working with equipment contaminated with any body fluid.
2. Rinse article with cold running water. Rationale: Cold water releases organic material form the equipment and warm water may make it adhere to the surface.

Preventing the Spread of Communicable Disease(s)

Policy

The Agency has established mechanisms for preventing the spread of disease(s) from employees, independent contractors, and/or representatives providing services under arrangement to clients. Employees, independent contractors, and/or representatives providing services under arrangement are prohibited form providing direct therapeutic services in the clients' residence when there is evidence of an acute disease process(es) which would potentially expose the clients to a contagious disease process(es). The Agency reserves the right to request a physician clearance on a case-by-case basis.

The following signs and symptoms are potentially identified as probable evidence of a communicable disease process(es).

1. Oral temperature greater than 101 degrees for a period greater than twenty-four (24) hours.
2. Acute episode of diarrhea lasting greater than twenty-four (24) hours, or a diarrhea episode any duration associated with a temperature greater than 101 degrees.
3. Productive cough and/or nasal drainage associated with an oral temperature greater than 101 degrees for a period greater than twelve (12) hours.
4. Wound(s), body cavity or body surface(s) area with drainage which cannot be shielded with appropriate protective barriers.
5. Any other infectious disease process (e.g. hepatitis) diagnosed by a physician.

It is noted that employees, independent contractors, an/or representatives providing services under arrangement which present with the aforementioned signs and symptoms may provide direct therapeutic services in the client's residence if the individual has initiated appropriate medical therapy for a period greater than forty-eight (48) hours, or a clearance form the physician stating the individual no longer presents a potential for communicating a disease(s) to clients.

It is noted that if an employee, independent contractor, and/or representative providing services under arrangement converts to a positive reading on a Mantoux test, or is diagnosed with active tuberculosis, they must have a clearance from the physician stating the individual no longer presents a potential for communicating a disease(s) to clients.

1. HBV

Hepatitis means "inflammation of the liver". Hepatitis B virus is the major infectious blood borne hazard faced by an employee on the job. It affects approximately 8,700 employees a year resulting in more than 400 hospitalizations and 200 deaths. If you become infected with HBV, you may suffer form flu-like symptoms so severe that you may require hospitalization; or you may feel no symptoms at all. Your blood, saliva, and other body fluids may be infectious and you might spread the virus to sexual partners, family members, and even unborn infants. There is a vaccine available to reduce or eliminate risk of infection.

2. HIV

The human immunodeficiency virus attacks the body's immune system causing the disease known as AIDS, or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. Currently there is no vaccine to prevent this infection. An individual infected with HIV ma carry the virus for several years without developing symptoms but will eventually develop AIDS. An infected person may suffer from flu-like symptoms,

fever, diarrhea, and fatigue; and eventually, AIDS-related illnesses, including neurological problems, cancer, and other opportunistic infectious diseases easily contracted as the body's abilities to fight illness decreases. Although HIV can be transmitted through contact with blood and some body fluids, it is not transmitted by touching, feeding, or working around residents who carry the disease.

How Bloodborne Pathogens are Transmitted

The pathogens which can transmit these diseases may be present in the blood and other body fluids such as saliva, semen, vaginal secretions. Pathogens can also be present in cerebrospinal, synovial, pleural, peritoneal, pericardial, amniotic, and any other fluids contaminated with blood. Unfixed tissue or organs form living or dead humans, cell, tissue or organ cultures and other biological matter from laboratory experiments have also proven to be sources of pathogens.

These pathogens can enter and infect the human body through openings in the skin including cuts, nicks, abrasions, dermatitis, or acne. Infection can also result from punctures or cuts caused by sharp contaminated objects such as needles, staples, broken glass, exposed ends of dental wires, or any other object that can puncture or cut skin. Infection can also gain access to the body through mucous membranes of the eyes, nose, and mouth when these areas are touched with contaminated hands or implements. The HBV virus is particularly dangerous since it can survive on dried surfaces at room temperature for at least one (1) week. This means that a surface can be dangerously contaminated without any visible signs if the work areas are not thoroughly cleaned immediately after being contaminated with infectious material.

Bloodborne Pathogens Policy
Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens: A Control Plan

Purpose

One of the major goals of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is to regulate facilities where work is carried out to promote safe work practices in an effort to minimize the incidence of illness and injury experienced by employees. Relative to this goal, OSHA enacted the Bloodborne Pathogens Standard, codified as 29 CFR 1910.1030. The purpose of the Bloodborne Pathogens Standard is to reduce occupational exposure to Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), and other bloodborne pathogens that employees may encounter in the workplace.

Policy Statement

It is the policy of CareStat LLC, Home Health to protect employees form the health hazards associated with bloodborne pathogens, and to provide appropriate treatment and counseling should an employee be exposed to bloodborne pathogens.

Risk Reduction

The Bloodborne Pathogens Policy contains a summary of the OSHA Rule designated to protect employees form the exposure to these serious diseases while performing lifesaving services for residents. The Rule provides guidelines but will not offer protection unless all employees work procedures used when there is an exposure risk. Know the policies and be alert to protect yourself and you co-workers.

Signature of Employee _____ **Date**_____

Signature of Witness _____ **Date**_____

Original: Employee Personnel File
Copy: Employee