



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

System Department

Supersedes:

Section: Biocontainment Unit
Bodily Fluid/Other Liquid Spill/Sharps Spill
Cleanup in the NBU

Subject:

Number: 1011

Attachments:

Date Effective: August 2014

Date Reviewed: June 2015; July 2015, October 2015, March 2018

Nebraska Biocontainment Unit (NBU)

Bodily Fluid/Other Liquid Spill/Sharps Cleanup

Policy:

All spills, including all bodily fluids or any other liquid spill (examples-liquid foods, IV fluids) shall be promptly cleaned by NBU personnel and disinfected using 1:10 bleach solution. Immediately following a spill, staff shall assess the need to call for assistance with the cleanup. If sharps are involved in the spill, notify nursing manager/designee. Staff performing the cleanup shall wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as determined by the Medical Director/Designee, which may include a disposable plastic apron or cut resistant gloves over the required PPE.

Purpose:

To define a process for clean-up, disinfection and disposal of bodily fluid and other fluid spills, including those that contain sharps.

Materials needed:

- Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Absorbent Pads
- Absorbent Pad with fluid resistant backing
- 1:10 Solution Bleach
- Mop Bucket (that is designated to the area where the spill occurs)
- Clean microfiber mop and dry pads
- Bleach Wipes

Additional materials for spills with sharps:

- Long handled dust pan with removable handle
- Cut resistant gloves
- Large sharps container
- Long handled dust pan with removable handle
- Long handled broom with removable hand

Procedure:

1. Immediately following a large spill or spill that has the potential for including sharps, communicate with other team members to conduct a risk assessment and plan how the spill will be cleaned safely.
2. If sharps are involved, don cut resistant gloves over 3rd pair of patient care gloves.
3. Layer the entire spill with enough absorbent pads to allow the fluid to become fully absorbed into

the material.

- a. If the absorbent pad becomes saturated or the spill pools on the surface, or it is suspected that the pad is insufficient to absorb the entire spill, place more pads on top (figure 1).



Figure 1

4. Once the fluid is absorbed, place an absorbent pad with a fluid resistant backing on top of the layers (the fluid resistant backing should face up).



Figure 2

5. If there are no sharps or no potential for sharps in the spill, gather and bundle the pads by enclosing them in the outer absorbent pad then gently place into an autoclave bag lined trash can.
 - a. If there is evidence that the fluid spill is still present, place additional absorbent pads on it and repeat the procedure.
6. **If there is a potential for sharps in the spill** wear cut resistant gloves and use a long handled broom to sweep all sharps debris and absorbent pads into a long handled dust pan.
 - a. Dispose of the debris and the dust pan into a large sharps container (Unscrew the handle from the dust pan to dispose of it).
7. Place broom head into large sharps container and unscrew the handle from the broom head. The dust pan and broom head remain in the sharps container.
 - a. The dust pan and broom handles are to be wiped clean and disinfected with bleach wipes and

may be reused with a clean broom head and dustpan.

8. Remove outer gloves and perform hand hygiene using bleach wipes before donning a clean pair of outer gloves. If wearing cut resistant gloves, remove those and discard them in the large sharps container when cleanup is complete.
9. Follow NBU Policy 1167 Waste Processing to remove the bagged items from the patient care area.
10. Using 1:10 bleach solution and a microfiber mop and pads, mop the area where the spill occurred.
 - a. If the spill is small and there is no potential for sharps being present, you may use bleach wipes in place of the mop.

Staff Accountability:

Nebraska Biocontainment Unit Leadership

Nebraska Biocontainment Unit Policy and Procedure Workgroup

Infection Control and Epidemiology

Department Approval

Signed | s |: Kate Boulter
Title: Nurse Manager
Department: NBU

Administrative Approval

Signed | s |: Michele Schwedhelm
Title: Executive Director