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Module 4 –Infection Prevention

Standard Precautions



Standard precautions are common sense practices used to protect providers and patient from the transmission of diseases that can be acquired by contact with blood, body fluids, non-intact skin (including rashes), and mucous membranes.

All West Cancer Center employees will perform Standard Precautions. Review the Potential Infection Prevention Risks and Interventions policy.

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Why should you be concerned?



The CDC estimates that 5.6 million workers in healthcare and related industries are at risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens such as human immunodeficiency (HIV) and Hepatitis B virus.

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Occupational Exposure

Contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that may result from the performance of an employee's duties…



<u>Duties may include:</u>

- Direct Patient Care
- Phlebotomy/Laboratory
- Environmental Services
- Waste Management
- Other (ex: Front Desk, Facilities, Volunteers, etc.)

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Bloodborne Pathogens

Bloodborne pathogens are infectious microorganisms in human blood that can cause disease in humans.

Bloodborne pathogens include (but are not limited to):

- Hepatitis B Virus (HBV)
- Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)
- Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

You may access the Exposure to Blood or Body Fluids policy through WestNet → Policy Tech



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Standard Precautions include…

- Hand Hygiene
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Needle Stick and Sharps Injury Prevention
- Cleaning and Disinfection
- Respiratory Etiquette
- Waste Disposal
- Safe Injection Practices



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Hand Hygiene

Alcohol-based Hand Rub (ABHR):

- Dispenser releases predetermined amount of hand sanitizer.
- Dispense into palm of one hand.
- Rub hands together, covering all surfaces of hands, fingers, and wrists for 20 seconds until they are dry. Do not wave hands to dry.

Review the CDC's Clean Hands Training.

Review West Cancer Center's Hand Hygiene policy.

Handwashing:

Handwashing is the preferred method of hand hygiene when…

- Before preparing and eating food.
- Before and after changing wound dressings and/or bandages.
- After using the bathroom.
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Remember to wash your hands for 20 seconds!

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Indications for Hand Hygiene

Always perform hand hygiene in the following situations:

- Before touching a patient, even if gloves will be worn.
- After touching a patient, even if gloves were worn.
- After contact with inanimate objects (including medical equipment) in the patient environment.
- After contact with blood, body fluids, or wound dressings.
- Prior to performing an aseptic task (e.g., accessing a port, preparing an injection).
- If hands will be moving from a contaminated body site to a clean body site during patient care.
- After glove removal.



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Personal Protective Equipment

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is available to all West Cancer Center employees to reduce the risk of exposure to bodily fluids, blood, or other pathogens. Review the Personal Protective Equipment Use policy. It is appropriate for all situations that may pose exposures to pathogens, diseases, and/or harmful chemicals.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



Gloves:

Gloves should be worn when there is potential contact with blood (e.g., during phlebotomy), body fluids, mucous membranes, non-intact skin, or contaminated equipment.

- ***Always*** perform hand hygiene before and immediately after glove use. Gloves do not replace hand hygiene.
- Wear gloves that fit appropriately (select gloves according to hand size).
- Change into a clean pair of gloves for each patient.
- Do not wash gloves for the purpose of reuse.

Personal Protective Equipment - Gloves





- Don new gloves immediately prior to performing a procedure and remove immediately after.
- Always perform hand hygiene *before* and *after* donning and doffing gloves.
- Collect equipment and supplies and place in patient area prior to donning gloves to avoid glove contamination.
- Store gloves in original box. Do not remove and place into other containers or pockets.
- Avoid storing on windowsills to prevent dust collection and contamination.

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Personal Protective Equipment - Gowns



- Wear a gown to protect skin and clothing during procedures or activities where contact with blood or body fluids is anticipated.
- Do not wear the same gown for the care of more than one patient.
- Remove gown and perform hand hygiene before leaving the patient's environment (e.g., exam room).

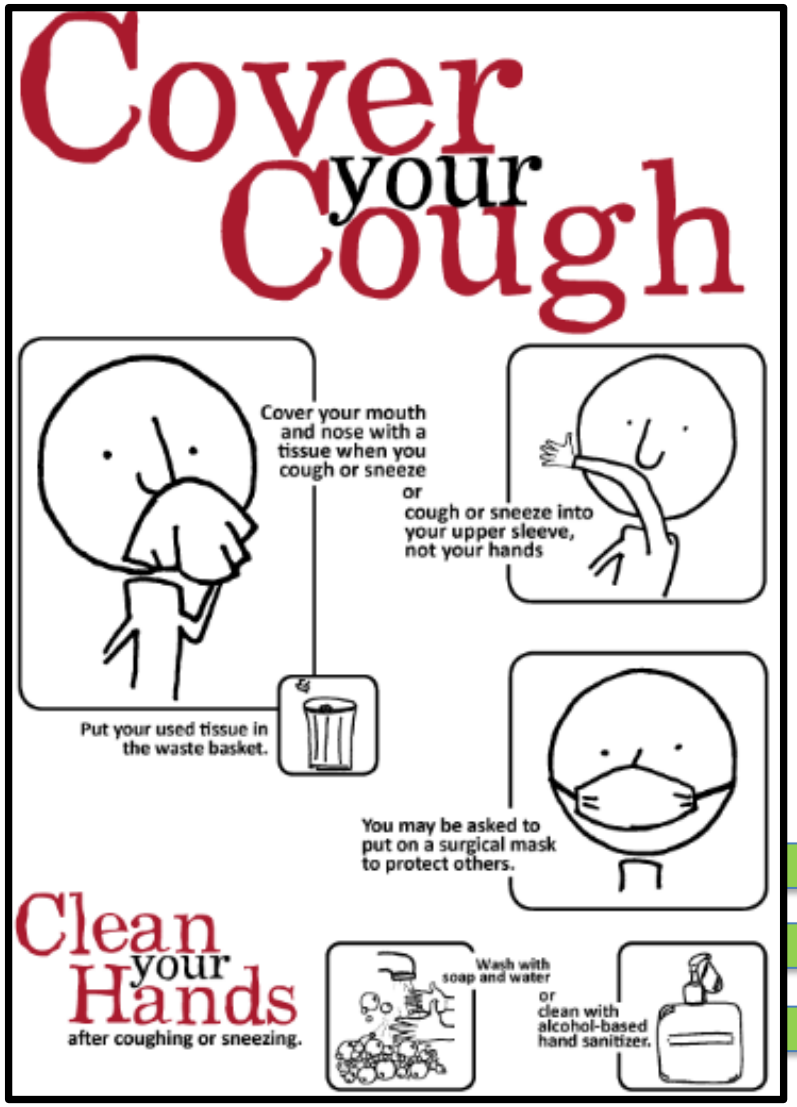
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PPE – Facemasks, Goggles, and Face Shields



- Use a facemask when there is potential contact with respiratory secretions and sprays of blood or body fluids.
- Use a facemask in combination with goggles or a face shield to protect the mouth, nose, and eyes (personal eyeglasses and contacts are not adequate protection).
- Use a facemask when placing a catheter or injecting material into the spinal canal or subdural space (to protect patients from exposure to infectious agents carried in the mouth or nose of healthcare personnel).
- Use a facemask and goggles/face shield to perform intravesical chemotherapy administration.

Respiratory Etiquette



Respiratory etiquette is vital in reducing the spread of respiratory illnesses. As a West Cancer employee, you can practice the following etiquette to keep our patients and coworkers healthy.

- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue. No tissue? No problem! Cough or sneeze into your elbow.
- Perform hand hygiene after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose. This will keep your hands from transferring germs onto surfaces.
- Feeling under the weather? Stay home! Return to normal activities once you are fever free for 24 hours without medication and your symptoms are improving.
- Think about wearing a mask as symptoms are improving. You may still be contagious even though you may feel better.
- Get your vaccinations (Flu, COVID-19, etc.).

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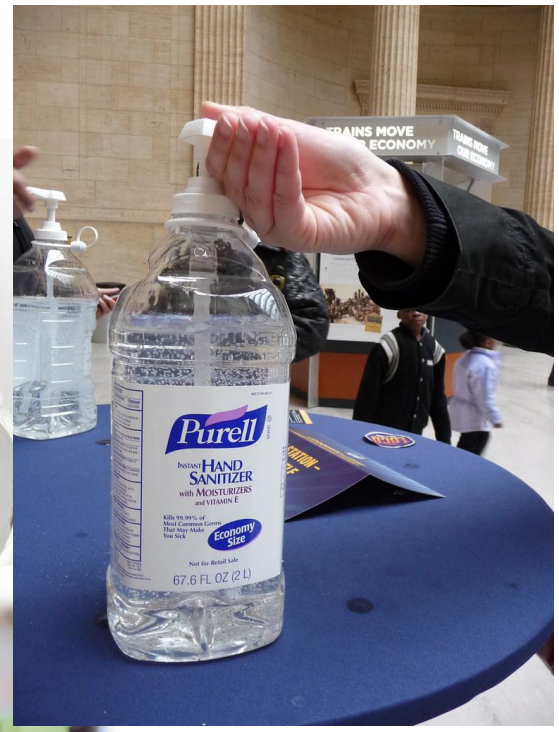
Respiratory Etiquette

Make sure that your areas have the following supplies for patients and employees to practice Respiratory Etiquette:

- Facemasks (encouraged, but not mandatory)
- Tissues
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- No touch trash receptacles for tissue disposal







Check out The Petri Dish newsletter regarding Respiratory Etiquette. Newsletters may be found on WestNet → Resources → Safety & Infection Prevention.

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Specific Infection Prevention Practices

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Mycobacterium Tuberculosis (TB)

TB usually attacks the lungs. It spreads when a person infected with TB coughs, speaks, or sings and people nearby breathe in the bacteria.

TB is infectious and can spread to people who are frequently around the infected person (family, friends, coworkers, or schoolmates).

Risk factors include contact with someone who has TB & medical conditions that weaken the immune system.

<u>Symptoms include:</u>

- Cough > 3 weeks
- Chest pain
- Fever
- Chills
- Unintentional weight loss
- Night sweats
- Appetite loss
- Easy Fatigue

Avoid contact with those with known/suspected TB. Consider PPE (respirator) use if traveling to a country with a known high incidence of TB.

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Medication Storage

- Store medications that require refrigeration in a dedicated, labeled refrigerator that meets requirements for such storage (e.g., thermostat control, separate exterior door for refrigerator and freezer compartments).
- Designated personnel should maintain a temperature log (monitor temperature at least twice daily for vaccine storage) and ensure an alternative storage method is in place in the event of power or refrigerator failure.
- Multi-dose vials are stored in the Medication Room and not in the immediate patient treatment area (e.g., exam room, chemotherapy suite).



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General Infection Prevention Guidelines



- Change the paper covering on the exam table and pillows between patient use.
- Place any used linens in a designated container located in each exam room after each patient use.
- Clean any medication preparation area after each patient encounter and ensure contaminated items are not placed in or near the area.
- Focus cleaning on high-touch surfaces (at least daily), e.g., exam beds, bedrails, blood pressure cuffs, stethoscopes, wall-mounted ophthalmoscopes and otoscopes (per manufacturer's instructions), chairs and bedside stools, and doorknobs.
- Decontaminate high-touch surfaces using an EPA-registered disinfectant with specific kill claim labels; observe wet contact times.
- Clean patient chairs, IV poles/pumps, and side tables between each patient use.

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Cleaning Spills of Blood and Body Substances

- Wear protective gloves and use appropriate PPE (e.g. use forceps to pick up any sharps and discard in sharps container).
- If the spill contains large amounts of blood or body fluids (e.g., >10 mL), clean the visible matter with disposable absorbent material and discard in appropriate containers for biohazardous waste.
- Decontaminate the area using an EPA-registered disinfectant with specific label claims for bloodborne pathogens or a freshly diluted bleach-based product (preferably EPA-registered), in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, and allow the surface to dry.
- If a bleach-based product is used:
  - Use a 1:100 dilution to decontaminate nonporous surfaces
  - If the spill involves large amounts of blood or body fluids, use a 1:10 dilution for first application of product before cleaning, then follow by cleaning and subsequent decontamination with 1:100 dilution application

Handling and Laundering Soiled Linens

- Handle all contaminated linens with minimum agitation to avoid contamination of air, surfaces, and persons.
- Do not sort or rinse soiled linens in patient-care areas.
- Use leak-resistant containment for linens contaminated with blood or body substances; ensure that there is not leakage during transport.



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Waste Disposal

- Puncture-resistant, leak-proof sharps containers are in every patient-care area (e.g., exam room, chemotherapy suite, phlebotomy station).
- All sharps are disposed of in the designated containers. Do not bend, recap, or break used syringe needles before discarding them into the container.
- Filled sharps containers are disposed of in accordance with state regulated medical waste rules.



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Waste Disposal

- Regular trash and regulated medical waste (e.g., biohazardous material and chemical hazardous waste, including antineoplastic drugs) are disposed of in their designated containers.
- All trash and waste containers are emptied at least daily by designated personnel.
- Handle, transport, and dispose of regulated waste, including antineoplastic and hazardous drugs, in accordance with state and local regulations.





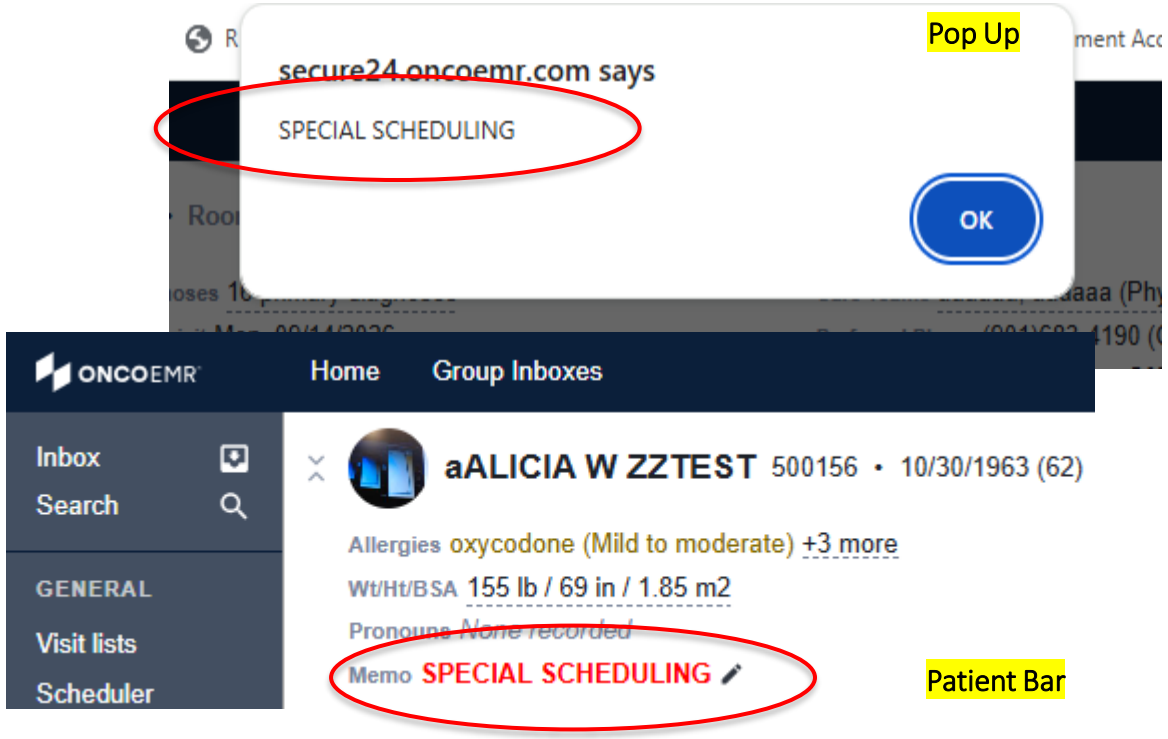
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Parasitic Infestations – Bed Bugs

West Cancer Center will encounter patients with new or existing infestation of bed bugs. The Parasitic Infestations policy provides guidelines to handle these patients with dignity and respect.

Key Points

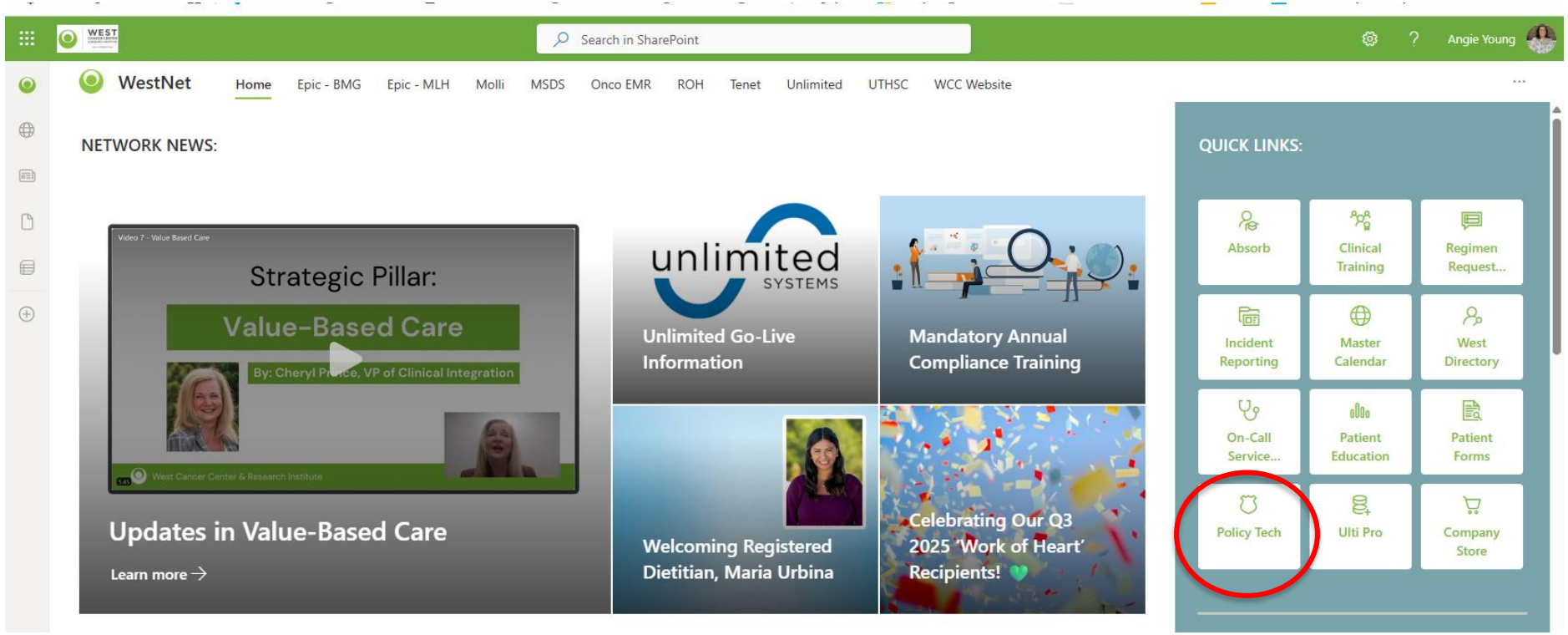
- Place an event to alert Infection Prevention of patient infestation.
- Patient chart will be labeled with “SPECIAL SCHEDULING” on a Pop Up and Patient Bar to alert employees.
- Do not allow the patient to travel through clinic. Minimize movement.
- Wear PPE when providing patient care to a patient with an infestation.
- Patient must have 3 occurrences of no infestation noted to be removed from protocol.
- Patient should be scheduled at end-of-day *unless* patient uses insurance transportation or has multiple visits in one day.
- Explain to patient the protocol so they are aware.



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PolicyTech

You may find Infection Prevention policies on WestNet → PolicyTech. Click on Clinical Policies → Infection Prevention. All policies related to Infection Prevention will be available for review.



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This concludes Module 4 - Infection Prevention Training.

Thank you!

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