

**A list of universal precautions for infection control by the National AIDS/STD Prevention and Control Program, Department of Health, Philippines. Colour lithograph, ca. 1995.**

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# UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS FOR INFECTION CONTROL

Universal Precautions is a term that refers to the basic standard of infection control. The underlying principle is to assume that all patients and staff are potentially infected with blood-borne pathogens (e.g. hepatitis B virus; Human Immunodeficiency Virus). Universal Precautions are intended to protect transmission of infections from patient to staff; from staff to patients or from patient to patient.

- Handle all specimens of blood and body substances as potentially infectious.
- Wash hands before and after contact with patients or specimens of blood and body substances.
- Wash hands before and after use of gloves.
- Do not recap or manipulate needles.
- Place used syringes, needles, scalpel blades and other sharp items in puncture-proof containers marked BIOHAZARD. Do this immediately after use.
- Wear laboratory gowns, rubber gloves, protective goggles and masks whenever contact with blood or body fluids is likely.

Produced by:



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