



POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL DUKE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEM



Clinical Engineering Policy CE-026

Infection Control

POLICY:

All Clinical Engineering employees will be aware of current Duke University Health System policies regarding Infection Control. Employees will not knowingly expose themselves or others to any types of Infectious Waste.

PURPOSE:

To provide all employees with a safe, clean working environment to protect Clinical Engineering technicians from contaminated equipment.

PROCEDURE:

General Precautions:

1. Visibly contaminated equipment will not be accepted for repair until adequately cleaned by the appropriate department. Appropriate PPE is worn to handle equipment.
2. All Clinical Engineering technicians will observe all isolation guidelines as well as the dress and scrub procedures for the area in which they are working. Clinical Engineering technicians should not enter "Isolation Rooms" or "Restricted Areas" without first obtaining permission and instructions, if necessary, from the appropriate charge nurse.
3. All Clinical Engineering employees will attend annual infection control education and updates. These events will be properly documented in the employees personal training record kept on file in the Clinical Engineering department.
4. Hand washing is required whenever:
 - A. Hands become contaminated with blood or body fluids.
 - B. Protective gloves are removed.
 - C. Between patient contacts.
 - D. Eating, drinking, applying cosmetics, and handling contact lenses are prohibited in areas where there is a risk of occupational exposure to blood or body fluids.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

1. Disposable gloves are available, within the Clinical Engineering department, for all workers at risk of exposure for use at their discretion or as required.
2. Eye protection and/or facemask will be worn whenever handling equipment that puts the employee at risk of occupational exposure to blood or body fluids through splashing.
3. Personal Protective Equipment, (i.e. gowns, gloves, masks and goggles) will be supplied whenever needed by the using department.
4. Contaminated supplies, (i.e. gowns, gloves, masks and absorbent towels) are to be placed in sturdy, plastic bags and tightly closed for transport in accordance to the Duke University Health System policy on Infectious Waste.



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Equipment Precautions:

1. All equipment containing filters, which are serviced by Clinical Engineering, will have the filters cleaned or replaced according to manufacturer recommendations.
2. Gloves will be worn during non-HEPA filter changes. These filters will be placed in normal waste.
3. Any equipment containing a HEPA filter requires that gloves, particulate respirator, gown, and protective eyewear are worn. These filters will be placed in a red bag and disposed of as infectious waste.
4. All filters from the Clinical Laboratory, that are changed, should be considered contaminated and disposed of as infectious waste. Appropriate PPE will be worn.
5. All equipment that needs to be opened and vacuumed or blown clean will be done away from patient care or employee work area whenever possible. Equipment that can be carried or rolled easily will be removed to the Clinical Engineering shop for cleaning. Clinical Engineering personnel will wear masks to eliminate the risk of breathing the dust from the machine.
6. All equipment that cannot be moved from the employee work area will be vacuumed, so as not to contaminate the work environment.

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