



# **MANAGEMENT OF BLOOD SPILLAGES IN CLINICAL AREAS POLICY**

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This policy has been written in accordance with local RDASH NHS Foundation Trust guidelines.

All staff dealing with blood and body fluid spillages should adhere to this policy in conjunction with standard infection prevention and control precautions, and appropriate equipment must be available. Only staff who are fully vaccinated against Hepatitis B and who have received appropriate training should deal with blood and/or body fluid spillages.

All spillages or splashes of blood in clinical areas must be considered as potentially hazardous and the following procedure adopted:

For effective management of spillages in the healthcare setting, surfaces such as walls, floors and upholstery should be smooth, wipeable, and impervious to moisture. All surfaces must be able to withstand disinfection with a chlorine-releasing compound.

High concentrations of a chlorine-releasing compound are recommended as an effective method of treating spillages especially blood. Wilson (2002)

Chlorine releasing compounds should not be used on urine spillages as they may react and cause a chlorine vapour (DOH 1998)

Chlorine releasing agents are a chemical disinfectant, which are effective against blood-borne viruses, and act rapidly.

- In order to be effective they must be used in accordance with manufacturer instructions and at the appropriate strength.
- All solutions made from tablets should be prepared only as and when needed.

Chlorine releasing agents fall into two categories:

- 1) Sodium Dichloroisocyanurate (NaDCC) e.g. Haz Tabs, Actichlor
- 2) Sodium Hypochlorite e.g. Milton, Domestos

- NaDCC is recommended for spillages. It is less resistant to organic matter, less corrosive and has a longer shelf life than hypochlorite solutions, as it is manufactured as tablets or granules.
- Chlorine releasing agents can damage the skin and mucous membranes, therefore appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) should be worn for contact with these chemicals i.e. gloves, aprons, face and eye protection.
- Chlorine releasing agents are corrosive to many materials including metals and will bleach/damage soft furnishings, fabrics and carpets.
- When using/preparing chlorine releasing agents the area must be well ventilated
- Never use hot water to dilute the chemicals. Cold water must be used.

**Chlorine releasing agents should never be mixed with acids or used on spillages of urine or vomit, as a chlorine vapour will be released.**

**CHLORINE CONCENTRATIONS:**

Strength	Usage
10,000 parts per million (ppm)	To render blood and blood stained body fluid spillages safe to deal with (before cleaning)
1,000 parts per million (ppm)	Decontamination of surfaces contaminated with body fluids (after cleaning)

**Management of Blood/Visibly Blood Stained Body Fluid Spillages**

**Small Blood Spillages (less than 30 mls)**

- Put on personal protective equipment - gloves, apron and eye protection
- If there is a risk of splashing wear eye/face protection
- If using a biohazard spill kit follow manufacturers instructions
- If biohazard spill kit not available cover spillage with chlorine releasing granules e.g. Haz Tabs to absorb spill
- Leave for 2 minutes
- Scoop up spillage with disposable paper towels and discard waste into appropriate waste stream
- Clean area with hot water and neutral detergent using a disposable cloth.
- Alternatively detergent wipes may be used. Rinse and dry the area.
- Clean bucket with hot water and neutral detergent, rinse and dry
- Discard cloth and personal protective equipment in appropriate waste bag
- Decontaminate hands with soap and water/soapy hand wipes followed by alcohol gel
- Replace spill kit

**Large Blood Spillages (more than 30 mls)**

- Put on personal protective equipment - gloves, apron and eye protection
- Prepare chlorine releasing solution (10,000 parts per million) for splashes as directed by manufacturer's instructions
- Cover spillage with paper towels.
- Gently pour chlorine solution onto spillage
- Leave for 2 minutes
- Scoop up spillage with disposable paper towels and discard waste into appropriate waste stream

- Clean area with hot water and neutral detergent using a disposable cloth or mop.
- Alternatively detergent wipes may be used. Rinse and dry the area.
- Clean bucket with hot water and neutral detergent, rinse and dry
- Discard cloth or mop head into appropriate waste stream. Reusable mop head must be sent to the laundry in a red alginate bag
- Discard remaining chlorine solution by flushing down the sink or sluice hopper
- Dispose of personal protective equipment into appropriate waste stream
- Decontaminate hands with soap and water/soapy hand wipes followed by alcohol gel
- Replace spill kit

### **Blood and Body Fluid Spillages to Walls and Vertical Surfaces**

- Put on personal protective equipment – gloves, apron and eye protection
- Prepare chlorine releasing solution (10,000 parts per million) for splashes as directed by manufacturer's instructions
- Use the solution on disposable paper towels to wipe splashes on walls and remove any smears
- Clean area with hot water and neutral detergent using a disposable cloth.
- Alternatively detergent wipes may be used. Rinse and dry the area.
- Discard remaining chlorine solution by flushing down the sink or sluice hopper
- Clean bucket with hot water and neutral detergent, rinse and dry
- Dispose of personal protective equipment into appropriate waste stream
- Decontaminate hands with soap and water/soapy hand wipes followed by alcohol gel

**For blood and body fluid spillages on equipment manufacturers' instructions must be followed.**

### **Management of body fluid spillage inclusive of urine/vomit/excreta (no visible blood)**

- Put on personal protective equipment (gloves and aprons)
- If there is a risk of splashing wear eye/face protection
- Cover spillage with paper towels to absorb spill
- Discard paper towels directly into appropriate waste stream
- Clean area with hot water and neutral detergent using a disposable cloth or mop. Rinse and dry area.
- Dispose of cloth/mop head into appropriate waste stream. Reusable mop head must be sent to the laundry in a red alginate bag
- Clean bucket with hot water and neutral detergent, rinse and dry
- Discard personal protective equipment into appropriate waste stream
- Decontaminate hands with soap and water/soapy hand wipes followed by malcohol gel

### **Spillages of Blood and Body Fluids on Carpets and Soft Furnishings**

- The procedure above should be followed.
- Chlorine releasing agents should not be used except where chlorine resistant fabrics are specified.
- In addition to the instructions above carpets and soft furnishings should be cleaned using a carpet cleaner and/or steam cleaned. Domestic services must be informed at the earliest opportunity to ensure this is performed.

### **Spillage Kits**

- Biohazard spillage kits are available in the practice. Packs are kept in both treatment rooms, stored in a locked cupboard. These kits have the required equipment ready in a pack.
- There are different spillage kits available for blood and/or non blood stained body fluids.
- Staff are responsible for ensuring that spill kits are in date and replenished when required.
- Follow the manufacturers instruction for using the kit

### **Skin Contamination**

- Skin soiled with blood must be immediately washed with soap and water.
- Splashes onto mucous membranes should be treated as soon as practicable by washing in cold running water.
- Immediately rinsing and washing out with copious amounts of tap water or saline solution must attend to cases of contamination of the eyes.
- In all cases the untoward incident reporting procedure will be instituted.