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Owner: *Rebecca Clarkson: Infection Preventionist*
 Policy Area: *Infection Prevention*
 References:
 Applicability: *PSJH LA Region*

Specimen Collection, Handling, Transport, and Disposal

POLICY

In keeping with the mission and values of Providence Health & Services, it is the policy of Providence Health System-Southern California to adopt this regional clinical standard for use in the following * :

Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center Torrance:	
x	Acute Care
x	Transitional Care Center
x	Providence Little Company of Mary Home Health
Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center San Pedro:	
x	Acute Care
x	Sub-Acute Care Center
x	Psychiatric Unit
x	Acute Rehabilitation
x	Chemical Dependency Unit
Providence Holy Cross Medical Center:	
x	Acute Care
x	Sub Acute Care Unit
x	Rehabilitation Unit
Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center:	
x	Acute Care
x	Providence Home Care
x	Providence St. Elizabeth's
x	Rehabilitation Unit
x	Roy and Patricia Disney Family Cancer Center
Providence Tarzana Medical Center:	

x	Acute Care
Providence Saint John's Health Center:	
x	Acute Care

* An "x" identifies inclusion and the absence of an "x" indicates exclusion or exception.

In keeping with the mission and values of Providence Health & Services, Providence Health System - Southern California will consider all specimens potentially infectious and will handle using Standard Precautions.

PURPOSE

To prevent exposure to infectious agents as a result of handling or transporting specimens.

PROCEDURE/GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- A. Paper work should be completed before specimen collection as appropriate.
 1. Label containers used for blood and other specimens in the presence of the patient.
- B. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention recommend that universal precautions be used when handling a potential biologic hazard such as laboratory specimens
 1. Gloves must be worn during specimen collection.
 - a. Hand hygiene will be performed before donning and after removal of gloves.
 2. Other PPE may be required if splashing or spraying is likely or anticipated.
- C. Observe asepsis when collecting specimens.
- D. Specimens must be placed in containers appropriate for the type of specimen being collected (these containers do not require biohazard labeling).
 1. Ensure that the lids of the container are tightly secured. Wipe outside of container if it becomes contaminated.
- E. Remove gloves and place container in an appropriately sized plastic zip-lock bag, seal, and WASH HANDS (persons handling specimens contained in a zip-lock bag do not require gloves).
- F. Specimens collected by non-lab personnel must also be placed in a clear zip-lock biohazardous plastic specimen bag to origination point before being sent to the laboratory.
 1. Larger specimens that do not fit in zip-lock bags must be placed in a secondary leakproof container identified with biohazard label if contents cannot be clearly seen.
- G. Specimens that are transported outside the medical center must be placed in a secondary container that is color coded red or contains a red-orange biohazard label.
- H. Follow Lippincott directions for specimen collection related to appropriate specimen source.

REFERENCE(S)/RELATED POLICIES

References:

- HICPAC/CDC: Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities, 2003: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5210a1.htm>
- 2007 Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare

Attachments

No Attachments

Approval Signatures

Approver	Date
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Applicability

PSJH LA Region