

Policy:

Palmer's Home Care, LLC and all its employees shall implement the following Contagious Disease Policy. All those employed with this company shall be trained on how to practice the Universal Precautions as recommended by OSHA, Centers for Disease Control, the Department of Mental Health, or Health Care Providers to minimize the risk of exposure to infectious diseases. The protection of both individual and staff has and always will be of the utmost importance. We feel the following procedures, when followed, aide in keeping everyone healthier, allowing for a more comfortable living and working environment.

Comments:

Universal Precautions implies that under circumstances in which it may be too difficult to differentiate between body fluid types, then ALL body fluids should be considered potentially infectious, including secretions/excretions, mucous membranes and non-intact skin as infectious, regardless of the person's diagnosis and is based upon the premise that many infections can be active and transmissible, yet manifest no symptoms. Control measures are to be carried out in an inconspicuous manner maintaining the least "clinical" appearance possible for the individual even in a situation where isolation is indicated for safety.

Gloves need to be worn in *ALL* of the following situations:

- When contact with the blood/body fluids is anticipated
- When contact with vomit and/or feces is anticipated
- To touch mucous membranes and non-intact skin
- To handle items or surfaces soiled with blood or body fluids
- Whenever cleaning up spills of blood or body fluids
- Whenever changing linen that has blood or body fluids on it
- Whenever a cut, sore, or lesion is apparent either on the individual or the staff
- Whenever handling of needles or sharp objects is anticipated

Immediately following one of the above situations, the next step is to wash your hands.

Good hand washing with soap and water is the single most important step each employee and individual can use to prevent any type of disease from spreading. The following list shall serve as a guide so staff and individuals alike can be reminded of the proper times for washing their hands.

- Upon arrival at your work area
- Before and after going to the bathroom
- Before and after meals
- Before and after direct contact with others
- After contact with anything that might be contaminated
- After touching secretions/excretions
- Before performing invasive/self-care procedures
- Before putting on gloves
- After removing gloves

The following procedures should be followed at all times by both the support staff and the individuals for washing your hands:

- Turn on the water faucet
- Wet hands under the running water
- Apply the soap or antiseptic
- Work the soap into a lather
- Clean the nails by scrubbing them against the soapy palms
- Thoroughly rinse the hands
- Use a paper towel to blot the hands dry
- Use the same paper towel to turn off the water faucet
- Use the same paper towel to open the bathroom door and then throw the towel away.

Per DMH requirements, in the ISL setting, all individuals in care are required to have an annual tuberculin test, unless a physician orders otherwise. If positive, documentation of ongoing treatment is kept in the medical book for the individual. Individuals in the ISL setting are also required to have either hepatitis B vaccination or a declination form signed by the legal decision maker (individual or medical guardian) kept in the medical book for the individual. Per DMH requirements, individuals in a host home setting are not required to have annual tuberculin testing or hepatitis B vaccination. All communicable diseases will be reported to the Department of Health and Senior Services as recommended by the CDC and diagnosing physician.