

Personal Protective Equipment

HS07

Date Written	
Author(s)	
Version	
Date Signed Off	
Reviewed by	

Date: []

Review Data

Initial Production

Name	Role/Department	RACI	Date

R = Responsible for writing the policy; **A** = Accountable; **C** = Consulted; **I** = Informed

Change History

Version	Date	Details of Change	Author

Emergency Contact Details

Name	Email	Mobile

CQC Fundamental Standards

Regulation Number	Regulation Details
Regulation 12: Safe care and treatment	Care and treatment must be provided in a safe way for service users including assessing the risk of, and preventing, detecting and controlling the spread of infections.

Key Lines of Enquiry

KLOE	How this applies to Access to Files and Records
Safe	Ensuring that the risk of harm is minimised through the correct provision and use of personal protective equipment promotes the overall safety of the service.

Related Documents

This policy should be read in conjunction with our:

- HS01 - Health and Safety Policy
- CM24 - Infection Control Policy
- HS08 - Risk Assessment Policy

Policy Statement



Policy Aims

The aim of this policy is to prevent the spread of infection amongst staff, service users and the local community.

Careville Ltd believes that adherence to strict guidelines on infection control is of paramount importance in ensuring the safety of both service users and staff. It also believes that good, basic hygiene is the most powerful weapon against infection, particularly with respect to cleaning, the wearing of protective clothing and hand washing.

Careville Ltd complies fully with The Health and Social Care Act 2008: Code of Practice for Health and Adult Social Care on the Prevention and Control of Infections and Related Guidance.

Legal Considerations

Careville Ltd adheres to the following infection control

- legislation: The Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act 1974 and the Public Health Infectious Diseases Regulations 1988 which place a duty on Careville Ltd to prevent the spread of infection
- Personal Protective Equipment at work regulations, 1992
- The Reporting of Incidents, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR), which places a duty on Careville Ltd to report outbreaks of certain diseases as well as accidents such as needle-stick accidents.
- The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) which places a duty on Careville Ltd to ensure that potentially infectious materials are identified as hazards and dealt with accordingly
- The Environmental Protection Act 1990, which makes it the responsibility of Careville Ltd to dispose of clinical waste safely
- The Health and Social Care Act 2008: Code of Practice for Health and Adult Social Care on the Prevention and Control of Infections and Related Guidance (the "Hygiene Code"), which requires care providers to base infection control and prevention policies on evidence-based guidelines which include those on effective hand hygiene at the point of care and the use of personal protective equipment.

The use of Personal Protective Equipment

In consultation with staff and their representatives, Careville Ltd will:

- identify, as part of its risk assessment programme, the need for any Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- carry out an assessment of proposed PPE to determine whether or not it is suitable
- take any necessary measures to remedy any risks found as a result of the assessment
- replace, modify or repair PPE to meet statutory obligations, as necessary and at no cost to the employee
- inform every employee of any risks that may remain
- ensure that staff are trained to use PPE correctly
- reassess, as necessary, any substances used, or work processes that have changed.

Disposable Gloves and Aprons

Careville Ltd understands that the effective use of PPE in relation to infection control and prevention is a vital area in preventing the spread of healthcare associated infections and is essential in complying with The Health and Social Care Act 2008: Code of Practice for Health and Adult Social Care on the Prevention and Control of Infections and Related Guidance. This guidance, commonly referred to as the Hygiene Code, requires care providers to base infection control and prevention policies on evidence-based guidelines which include those on effective hand hygiene at the point of care and the use of personal protective equipment.

The hands of staff are likely to be the most common means of transmission of infection from one service user to another unless basic precautions are taken, i.e. careful handwashing between contacts and the correct use of protective clothing such as disposable gloves (sterile and non-sterile) and disposable aprons.

Other PPE:

Should care workers feel a need for other Personal Protective Equipment- such as eye masks- they can request this from the office providing there is a need and it is written in the care plan.



Key Question: Who will be provided with disposable gloves and aprons?

Disposable gloves and disposable aprons are provided for staff who are at risk of coming into direct contact with body fluids, or waste such as faeces.

1. Sterile gloves are provided for clinical procedures.
2. Non-sterile gloves are provided for non-clinical procedures such as:
 - a. providing personal care
 - b. clearing up blood or bodily fluids or spillages
 - c. handling disinfectants
 - d. inserting suppositories or enemas
 - e. emptying catheter bags
 - f. performing mouth care.
3. Gloves should be worn at all times during these procedures and disposed of immediately after the procedure or contact is finished.
4. Gloves should always be changed between service users.
5. On no account should staff attempt to wash and reuse gloves.

Plastic disposable aprons are also provided for use by care staff. Aprons should be used in all of the above procedures and should be changed between contacts with individual service users, especially where service users are known to be colonised or infected with MRSA.

Training

All new staff should be encouraged to read Careville Ltd's health and safety policies as part of their induction process. Where new staff are required to use specific items of PPE they should be trained in all aspects of its use.

All care staff will be trained in the effective use of PPE at the point of care as part of their infection control training.



Key Points to Take Away

- The hands of staff are likely to be the most common means of transmission of infection from one service user to another unless basic precautions are taken.
- Disposable gloves and disposable aprons are provided for staff who are at risk of coming into direct contact with body fluids, or waste such as faeces.
- All care staff will be trained in the effective use of PPE at the point of care as part of their infection control training.

Authorisation and Signature

This Policy is the authorised version agreed by the Directors of Careville Ltd. All employees are expected to follow this policy and failure to do so could result in disciplinary action.

Director's Signature

Director