I. Policy Summary

It shall be the policy of UCR Health that Universal Precautions are to be used by all personnel in contact with blood, all body fluids, secretions, excretions, and non-intact skin of all patients regardless of the patient’s diagnosis. Universal Precautions focus on reducing the risk of transmission of microorganisms. The use of barriers is determined by the employee’s interaction with the patient and the level of potential contact with body substances.

II. Definitions

"Universal precautions," as defined by CDC, are a set of precautions designed to prevent transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), and other bloodborne pathogens when providing first aid or health care. Under universal precautions, blood and certain body fluids of all patients are considered potentially infectious for HIV, HBV and other bloodborne pathogens.

III. Policy Text

All UCR health care workers should routinely use appropriate barrier precautions to prevent skin and mucous membrane exposure during contact with any patient's blood or body fluids that require universal precautions.

IV. Responsibilities

UCR Health Faculty and Staff

V. Procedures

A. Protective Barriers

1. Gloves

Gloves will be worn for touching blood and body fluids requiring universal precautions, mucous membranes, or non-intact skin of all patients, and for handling items or surfaces soiled with blood or body fluids to which universal precautions apply.

Gloves should be changed after contact with each patient. Hands and other skin surfaces should be washed immediately or as soon as patient safety permits if contaminated with blood or body fluids requiring universal precautions. Hands should be washed immediately after gloves are removed.
Gloves will be used in situations where hand contamination with blood may occur.

Use gloves for performing finger sticks and/or heel sticks on infants and children.

2. **Masks**
   Masks and protective eyewear or face shields will be worn by health care workers to prevent exposure of mucous membranes of the mouth, nose, and eyes during procedures that are likely to generate droplets of blood or body fluids requiring universal precautions.

3. **Gowns**
   Gowns or aprons will be worn during procedures that are likely to generate splashes of blood or body fluids requiring universal precautions.

**B. Needlestick Prevention** (in the event of a needlestick refer to *Sharps Incident Reporting Policy and Procedure*)

1. All UCR Health workers should take precautions to prevent injuries caused by needles, scalpels, and other sharp instruments or devices during procedures; when cleaning used instruments; during disposal of used needles; and when handling sharp instruments after procedures.

2. To prevent needlestick injuries, needles will not be recapped by hand, purposely bent or broken by hand, removed from disposable syringes, or otherwise manipulated by hand.

3. After they are used, disposable syringes and needles, scalpel blades, and other sharp items will be placed in puncture-resistant containers for disposal.

4. The puncture-resistant containers will be located as close as practical to the use areas.

**C. Salivary Transmission Prevention**

General infection control practices will further minimize the already minute risk for salivary transmission of HIV. Wash Hands after exposure to saliva. The need for emergency mouth-to-mouth resuscitation will be minimized by using mouthpieces Ambu bags.

**VI. Forms/Attachments**

N/A

**V. Related Information**

Universal Precautions for Prevention of Transmission of HIV | CDC

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/bp_universal_precautions.html

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VIII. Revision History
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