

Innova Health Clinic Rehab Policies and Procedures	
TITLE: Infection Control	POLICY #:
DATE EFFECTIVE: August 2004	DATES REVIEWED/REVISED: March 2006, May 2007, May 2010, October 2017, May 2019, January 2020, March 2020
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PURPOSE STATEMENT:

1. To identify and minimize any risks caused by infections, person to person contact or the use of equipment in the practice.

POLICY:

1. The clinic will abide by provincially and federally regulated infection control guidelines.
2. The clinic will use current and generally accepted infection prevention and control measures relevant to the practice setting.

PROCEDURES:

Client Interactions during assessments and treatments

1. Universal Precautions will be followed with all patients (see attached guidelines from First Aid Responder and University of Waterloo Guidelines).
2. While removing acupuncture needles a tissue will be used.
3. A sheet should be used between the patient and heavy blankets.
4. A clean towel is used by each patient on the pillowcases.
5. No shoes allowed on the beds (or a towel should be placed under shoes if this is not possible).

Hand Hygiene

1. All employees MUST wash hands/use Alcohol Based Hand Rub before initial patient contact.
2. All employees MUST wash hands after body fluid exposure risk.
3. All employees MUST wash hands/use ABHR after patient contact.
4. ABHR is available in the entry area of the clinic.
5. Gloves are available for use in the clinic.
6. During epidemics (ie. SARS, COVID-19) use of ABHR will be monitored and strictly enforced by all staff and patients.

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Cleaning, Sterilizing and Disinfecting space, equipment and supplies

1. All beds and equipment are sprayed and wiped down between patients. The cleaning solution the clinic uses is tea tree oil (10 drops) mixed with water and witch hazel.
2. During an outbreak, the cleaning solution is diluted disinfecting all purpose cleaner, disinfecting wipes when available and
3. In addition to between patients, all equipment (gym, chairs, mats, waiting room) are cleaned daily.
4. Each evening, cleaning staff looks after the garbage, bathroom, vacuuming and general tidying as needed.
5. On weekends, a more thorough clean is completed including dusting, laundry and equipment cleaning (water for hot packs).
6. Wax is discarded after use. (not applicable at this time)
7. Electrodes are washed with hot soapy water or wiped with rubbing alcohol 99% between patients.
8. US Gel is refilled into plastic bottles only after any remaining gel is washed out.

Biomedical Waste Management

1. Needles are disposed in a safe container and brought to a facility with biomedical waste disposal as needed.
2. Batteries are taken to a hazardous waste depot by the equipment maintenance employee.
3. If there are instances where excessive blood must be cleaned up, universal precautions will be followed and it will be put in a separate bag and into the garbage.

Laundry and Linen Processing

1. Laundry is collected in designated baskets.
2. Soiled linen is collected in a separate designated space using gloves.
3. Towel laundry is done every day or as needed.

Epidemic Management

1. Patient pre-screening will be done for all new patient and current patient bookings.

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2. Signs will be posted throughout the clinic during high flu/virus seasons to remind patients of proper infection control and to stay home if they have vomiting, diarrhea, productive coughing and/or fevers.
 - a. How to Hand Rub
 - b. How to Hand Wash
3. Personal protective equipment is available (e.g. gloves)
4. Updated procedures and policies will be implemented as they are available from Public Health Ontario.

MEASUREMENT:

1. During bi-annual safety evaluations, equipment maintenance policies are reviewed.
2. The Infection Control policy and associated issues are reviewed annually in January.
3. Infection Control Checklist is completed in January of each year and otherwise as needed.

LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Safety Check, 2007
Equipment Policies, 2007
Health And Safety Policy, 2007

RESOURCES

1. Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario), Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee. Best Practices for Hand Hygiene in All Health Care Settings. 4th ed. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; January 2014.
2. Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario), Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee. Routine Practices and Additional Precautions in All Health Care Settings. 3rd edition. Appendix E. Toronto, ON: Queens Printer for Ontario; November 2012.
3. College of Physiotherapists of Ontario, Rules and Regulations, Infection Control; November 2017

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