

Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Areus (MRSA) Safety Policy

In the event that a client with a history of the MRSA virus has a condition (for example a wound or cough) that results in the possibility of bodily fluid exposure to surfaces or individuals working with the client the following protocol will be used instead of general universal precautions guidelines.

Hand washing:

- 1) Student therapists will wash hands throughout sessions with client as appropriate. This should be done prior to/and post using gloves and after disinfecting areas/items that client has used. Hand washing should be done over using alcohol based hand sanitizer.
- 2) Student therapists will use gloves when making direct contact with client and use the above washing techniques. In addition, gloves will be removed without touching the external surface of the gloves.
- 3) Client will wash hands with soap and water at the beginning of each session in a fashion determined by student therapists based on client's physical ability to perform task.

Cleaning of work areas

- 1) Sanitize any items that client has come into contact with using Sanizene (located under the sink in 4014). Sanizene specifically kills the *S. aureus* virus. Sanizene should be allowed to air dry, vs being dried off with a paper towel.
- 2) The client should be met in the lobby and any surfaces the client (or exposed caregiver) has come into contact with should be sanitized with Sanizene i.e. door handles. Student therapists are encouraged to open doors, press elevator buttons etc for the client, to reduce the need for sanitizing common use areas.
- 3) Any items used in the kitchen area will be washable or disposable. For example if client is using bulk food items, individual amounts will be placed into a disposable bag, and the bag and remaining contents will be disposed of as indicated down below. Any washable items will be cleaned with sanitizer mentioned above.
- 4) Student therapists will disinfect all areas that client's caregiver makes contact with after the session. There is a reasonable assumption that the caregiver may be in contact with client and bodily fluids and therefore may be able to spread the MRSA virus.
- 5) Client will not use any equipment that cannot be properly sanitized i.e. theraputty.
- 6) Student therapists will choose to use lab equipment that is cleanable. For example using the hi/low mat in room 4014 to practice transferring from w/c to "bed" as the mat can be disinfect after use vs. using the bed in the ADL lab as some items on the bed cannot be cleaned properly.
- 7) As the HSC does not have laundry facilities to wash contaminated linen, only disposable linen (i.e. paper towels) will be used with client.

Bodily fluids

- 8) Client will be instructed to cover all open wounds with dry wrapping material prior to entering the building and student therapists will verify follow through with that request. If not completed, family member/caregiver will be asked to complete this before treatment session occurs.

Disposal of waste products

- 9) Student therapists will place used gloves, paper towels etc. into a separate biohazard garbage bag (stored under the sink in room 4014) and bring this bag to the 5th floor Gundersen lab (next to the atrium) and dispose of the bag in the biohazard disposal.