

Health Management/Blood Borne Pathogens

Quick Facts

Your employment in a Self Determination arrangement is made possible through the use of Medicaid funding. Medicaid funds originate from SCCMHA and our training requirement source: Mid-State Health Network.

The Health Management Plan includes a Blood borne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan and an Infection Control Plan intended to minimize the risk of infection and illness to staff as a result of occupational exposure to blood, airborne infectious agents or other potentially infectious materials.

The Health Management Plan complies with relevant guidelines published by the Department of Consumer and Industry Services – Blood borne Infectious Diseases, OSHA, Michigan Medical Waste Regulatory Act of 1990 and the most recent CARF Behavioral Health Standards.

Orientation and Training

All employees are required to participate in a Blood Borne Pathogens and Infection Control Training within the first 30 days of hire and on an annual basis thereafter. A competency exam measures an employee's understanding of:

- What tasks they perform that has occupational exposure
- Modes of transmission
- Work environment controls

Blood Borne Pathogens

Blood borne pathogens are pathogenic microorganisms that are present in human blood and can cause disease in humans. Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) are two examples of blood borne pathogens.

Fluids in which blood borne pathogens may be present are blood, semen, vaginal secretions, oral secretions, sputum, vomitus, wound discharge, urine, stool or any body fluid that is visibly contaminated with blood. Any sharp object can potentially be contaminated with infectious materials.

The use of protective barriers, such as gloves, gowns, aprons, masks, or protective eyewear, can reduce the risk of exposure to potentially infective materials to skin or mucous membranes. It is recommended that all staff take precautions to prevent injuries caused by needles.

Self Determination in Compliance with SCCMHA Effective 2024

Universal Precautions

“Universal Precautions” are a set of precautions designed to prevent the transmission of HIV, Hepatitis B, and other blood borne pathogens when providing first aid or health care.

Blood and body fluids containing visible blood, semen, and vaginal secretions should be treated as if they are infected with HIV, Hepatitis B and other blood borne pathogens.

“Universal Precautions” do not apply to feces, nasal secretions, sputum, sweat, tears, urine, and vomitus except when they contain visible blood

All staff should use appropriate barriers such as gloves to prevent skin and mucus membrane exposure during contact with any person’s blood or body fluids that require universal precautions.

Gloves should be worn when:

- Touching blood or body fluids requiring universal precautions, mucous membranes or non intact skin.
- Handling items or surfaces soiled with blood or body fluids to which universal precaution apply.

Remember:

- Change gloves between contacts with people.
- Wash hands immediately after gloves are removed.
- Do not reuse gloves.
- Gloves cannot prevent penetrating injuries caused by needles or other sharp objects.

QuickFacts Take Away: Universal Precautions are precautions designed to prevent the transmission of bloodborne pathogens including HIV and Hepatitis B. Body fluids containing visible blood, semen and vaginal secretions should be treated as if they are infected with HIV, Hepatitis B and other bloodborne pathogens.

Personal Protective Equipment including gloves can be purchased by the consumer, family, or insurance in cases where they are needed.

Critical Elements of Universal Precautions and Standard Operating Procedures

Anticipate every person is infectious.

Compliance with the Infection Control Policy is mandatory for all employees, volunteers, contractual staff, students, interns and health care professionals.

Use mouth-to-mouth barriers for emergency resuscitation.

Hand washing must occur as described in the Hand Washing Standard.

Employees must have annual Blood borne Pathogen/Infection Control training.

Use precautions against needle stick. Do not bend needles.

Report actual or possible exposure incidents to the Fiscal Intermediary immediately.

Employees who do not follow the elements of Universal Precautions and standard operating procedures will be disciplined accordingly.

Self Determination in Compliance with SCCMHA Effective 2024

Hand Washing Standard

Hand washing is the single most important measure for preventing the spread of infection.

Wash Hands:

- After handling contaminated articles.
- Before and after doing invasive procedures and dressing changes.
- After performing personal bodily functions or assisting others with personal bodily functions.
- Before and after gloves are removed.

How to Wash Hands:

- Use soap and warm running water.
- All skin surfaces up to the wrists are included.
- Wash hands for a minimum of 15 - 20 seconds.
- Rinse hands thoroughly under running water.
- Dry hands with a paper towel.
- Turn off water with a different, dry, paper towel.

When hand sanitizer liquid or towelettes are used, employees are to wash their hands with soap and water as soon as feasible.

QuickFacts Takeaway: Washing hands thoroughly as described in the hand washing standard is the single most important measure for preventing the spread of infection. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, washing hands with soap and water is the best way to reduce the number of pathogens on your hands in most situations. If soap and water are not available, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60% alcohol is better than nothing until hands can be washed thoroughly with soap and water.

Reporting Infections & Communicable Disease Exposure

An “exposure incident” is defined as an eye, mouth, other mucous membrane, non-intact skin or contact with other potentially infectious material resulting from performance of an employee’s job duties. In the event of an exposure incident, wash the affected area thoroughly and then:

Report the incident to the Fiscal Intermediary. The employee must complete an **Incident Report form** and submit the report to Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority (see contacts below) to obtain further direction for medical treatment.

Self Determination in Compliance with SCCMHA Effective 2024

Forward Incident Report form(s) and supporting documentation to the SCCMHA Quality Department by one of the following methods:

- 1.) Quality Department fax
989-272-0920
- 2.) Drop Box
500 Hancock (outside building) in an envelope addressed to the **Quality Department**
- 3.) Customer Service Office
500 Hancock Street, Saginaw during regular business hours: Monday-Friday 8:00a-5:00p in an envelope addressed to the **Quality Department**

QuickFacts Takeaway: Report exposures immediately to the Fiscal Intermediary. You will complete an Incident Report form and submit it to the SCCMHA for further direction.

General Procedures

All staff must practice Universal Precautions, use personal protective equipment when it is accessible to you and demonstrate proper cleanup and disposal techniques. Use gloves and other protective equipment properly and consistently. Remove personal protective equipment immediately upon leaving the work area. Use proper hand washing technique, use sharps containers for needles, razor blades, broken glass, and other sharp objects. Policy requires staff report exposure to another person's body fluids immediately to his or her Fiscal Intermediary.

Airborne Infectious Disease: Tuberculosis (TB)

TB is an airborne particle that can be released when an infected person sneezes, coughs or sings. Infection can occur when a susceptible person inhales the particles, and the particles travel through the respiratory tract to the lungs. Using the risk assessment definitions provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), SCCMHA is classified in the "very low risk" category for the transmission of tuberculosis.

Signs and Symptoms of TB include:

- A bad cough that lasts 3 weeks or longer
- Pain in the Chest
- Coughing up blood or sputum
- Weakness/Fatigue
- Weight Loss
- No Appetite
- Chills/Fever
- Night Sweats

Hepatitis B Vaccine

HBV vaccination is not mandatory but recommended.

