

Dealing with blood and body fluids

Dealing with blood and body fluids requires special training.

Every effort will be made to stop you coming into contact with body fluids. If there is a risk that this contact could occur, such as working on drains, the Trust will give advance training on how to manage this.

Do not work in such a risk area without the appropriate training.

Risk assessment and training

The Health and Safety rules of your company must be followed at all times.

If a specialist assessment is needed, this will be done before work starts and in conjunction with the Somerset Community Health Estates Department. In some circumstances, the Infection Control Team will give specific training to the contractors after a risk assessment of the work to be carried out and before work starts.

Contact details

The Somerset Community Health Infection Control Team may be contacted on **01935 848259**.

This leaflet is based on a leaflet produced by Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. It has been adapted with kind permission for Somerset Community Health.

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Infection Control

Information for contractors



Information for contractors working within Somerset Community Health managed units

Infection control

The hospital environment is safe to work in, as long as infection control requirements are understood and followed.

Any breaches of infection control should be reported to the Matron. The Matron will then seek advice from the Somerset Community Health Infection Control Team.

Hand hygiene

Good hand hygiene is the most important way of stopping bugs associated with infection spreading to you or to others.

It is important for your health and safety that you clean your hands regularly when working in a hospital.

Hospitals can be associated with infection that can be spread to others if the basic infection control rules are not followed at all times:

- Wash your hands with soap in warm or hot running water if they are visibly dirty before entering a patient area or when using the canteen or public facilities

- Alcohol gel is provided in dispensers at the entrance to all wards. This can be used if hands are visibly clean. The alcohol gel is safe to use and must be rubbed all over your hands. Do not apply to damaged skin
- Always clean your hands **before** going for a break, and **after** handling hospital equipment, working in contaminated areas and using the toilet

Make sure that all surfaces of the hands are cleaned. Special attention must be given to cleaning the fingers and thumb.

General health

If you develop a vomiting and diarrhoea illness please report to your supervisor. The Trust policy is that staff who have this type of illness do not come to work. This is because it can spread rapidly to others and potentially cause major outbreaks of infection.

As a general rule, staff working in hospitals are not allowed to return to work until they have had no signs of the illness for 48 hours.

Further advice on what to do in this situation can be obtained from the project lead in the facilities department or the Infection Control Department on **01935 848259**.

MRSA and other infections that are reported in the media are not readily spread to healthy people. They are linked with spread to hospital patients who are sick and more vulnerable to any type of infection.

Dealing with needles and contaminated sharps

If you come into contact with needles and sharp instruments that could have been used in patient care, **do not touch them**. Immediately seek advice on how to manage this situation from your supervisor who can contact the facilities department.

If a needle or sharp medical instrument damages your skin please:

- Do not suck the wound
- Try to make the wound bleed
- Wash the wound under running water
- Report the incident
- Go to the nearest Minor Injuries Unit where they will decide what further action to take