

STANDARD PRECAUTIONS

Standard Precautions are barrier precautions utilized by all occupational therapy assistant students when working with all patients or simulations regardless of the diagnosis or simulated diagnosis. The purpose is to reduce the risk of transmission of microorganisms from all sources which include the following:

- blood,
- all body fluids, secretions, excretions,
- skin
- mucous membranes
- equipment/all surfaces

Barriers will be utilized based on the potential for contact with the above sources and type of care interaction. The provider is responsible to comply with all precautions including isolation and use of barriers.

The OTA Program has incorporated standard precautions in all program procedures involving patient care and simulations.

All OTA students receive training in standard precautions including hand washing and personal hygiene issues that are involved in infection control.

- Alcohol based hand cleaners will be the first method for hand sanitization when there are no signs of visible soil on hands.
- Visibly soiled hands will be washed with soap and water for a minimum of 15 seconds.
- Hand washing is to occur before patient care, in between patient care, after patient care, and before/after donning/doffing gloves...in addition to patient care, before/after touching any equipment or object in environment regardless of being gloved, and before and after utilizing bathroom.
- Students will clean equipment/supplies prior to transporting to another location for patient care or storage.
- Students are not permitted to wear nail extensions at any point during the OTA Program and nails must be groomed to no longer than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch past fingertips.

SOAP PRODUCTS:

- Wet hands first with water.
- Apply an amount sufficient for lather to cover all surfaces of hands and wrists.
- Rub hands together well covering all surfaces of the hands and fingers with special attention to areas around nails and between fingers for a minimum of **15 seconds**.
- Rinse well with running water.
- Dry thoroughly with paper towel.
- Use paper towel to turn off faucet.
- Avoid using hot water as repeated exposure to hot water may increase risk of dermatitis.

ALCOHOL BASED PRODUCTS:

- Apply to dry hands that are not visibly soiled.
- Rub hands vigorously to apply gel to all surfaces of hands, fingers and fingernails, until hands are dry. If hands feel dry after rubbing hands together for 15 seconds, insufficient volume of product was applied.
- Wash hands after 7-10 applications of alcohol gel or if hands get visibly soiled.
- Skin Care: Healthcare workers should use hospital approved hand lotion to minimize the occurrence of irritant contact dermatitis associated with hand antisepsis or handwashing.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE):

GLOVES:

- Disposable (single use) Gloves must be worn for:
 - anticipated contact with moist body substances, mucous membranes, tissue, and non-intact skin of all patients;
 - contact with surfaces and articles visibly soiled/contaminated by body substances;
 - performing lower body dressing, toileting, showering, feeding and oral hygiene activities
- Gloves are to be donned immediately after need is determined.
- Replace torn, punctured or otherwise damaged gloves as soon as patient safety permits. Caution: Gloves do not provide protection from needlesticks or other puncture wounds caused by sharp objects. Use extreme caution when handling wheelchair parts, sharp grooming and hygiene items etc.
- Remove and discard gloves after each individual task involving body substance contact and before leaving the bedside, bathroom, shower, rehab room or treatment area.
- Gloves should not be worn once treatment completed and movement is away from the treatment area.
- Wash hands as soon as possible after glove removal, or removal of other protective equipment. Gloves are not to be washed or decontaminated for reuse. They must be discarded if cracked, peeling, torn, punctured or show other signs of deterioration or when their ability to function as a barrier is compromised.

MASKS, EYE PROTECTION

Wear masks in combination with eye protection devices (goggles or glasses with side shields) or chin-length face shields during activities or other close contact that are likely to generate droplets, spray, or splash of body substances to prevent exposure to mucous membranes of the mouth, nose and eyes.

Some situations which may increase risk of splash/splatter include but are not limited to the following:

1. oral care of coughing patient
2. feeding activities with a coughing patient
3. patient care of coughing patient with suspected infectious etiology

GOWNS

- Wear plastic aprons or gowns during patient care procedures to prevent contamination of clothing and protect the skin of personnel from blood/body fluid exposure.
- Remove protective body clothing before leaving the immediate work area.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- If a client is in a private room for infection control:
 - Do not take patient outside of the infection control area
 - Don/doff appropriate protective clothing according to policy of facility.
 - Do not take items outside of room
- Dispose of all razors in approved sharps containers.

REFERENCES:

- CDC/HICPAC: "Guideline for Isolation Precautions in Hospitals: Part I: Evolution of Isolation Practices."
- CDC/HICPAC: "Guideline for Isolation Precautions in Hospitals: Part II: Recommendations for Isolation Precautions in Hospitals."
- AJIC (American Journal of Infection Control) June 1996 • Vol. 24 • No. 1
- CDC/HICPAC: "Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health Care Facilities." (US DHHS) 2003
- APIC Text (Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology) 2009
- http://ic-epi.ucsd.edu/standard_policy.htm
- <http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/isolation/Isolation2007.pdf>
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GENERAL SAFETY RULES



Difficulty: Ask your instructor for advice....

Secure Approval: Secure the instructor's approval for all work you plan to do in the class. The instructor is the one to decide if the work can and should be done and will be able to suggest the best, easiest and safest way to do it.

Clothing: Dress properly for your work. Remove coats, sweaters, and jackets; tuck in your shirt and roll up your sleeves. It is advisable to wear a shop apron.

Eye protection: Be sure to protect your eyes by cutting tiles inside a bag and looking away as well as making sure you are in an area where no one else is sitting or standing. Be careful to use smooth movements and not whip around or talk with brush or supplies that are liquid to prevent spraying of materials into eyes.

Clean hands: Keep your hands clean and free of oil or grease. You will do better and safer work and the tools and your project will stay in good condition. Keep open sores covered and use rubber gloves to protect your skin.

Consideration of others: Be thoughtful and helpful toward other students in class. Caution them if they are violating the safety rules. A limited number of supplies are available and will require sharing. Do not hog supplies or tools. Remember professional behaviors. Keep the noise down and remember others are trying to concentrate.

Tool selection: Select the proper size and type of tool for your work. Do not utilize the wrong handle for the leather stamps or a knife to cut holes. Let the instructor know if a tool is broken or in poor repair.

Carrying tools: Keep edged and pointed tools turned down and do not swing your arms or raise them over your head while carrying them. Do not carry sharp tools in your pockets.

Using tools: Hold a tool in the correct position while using it. Cut away from you. Make sure no one else is in an area where if you are cutting away from you and slip they may be injured. Be careful of your hand and finger placement. Never check for sharpness using your finger or hands.

Organization: Keep your project materials carefully organized at your work area. Do not allow sharp objects to hang over the edge of your work area. Place small objects in a container or safe area where they will not roll away or get thrown away.

Floor safety: Please make sure your backpacks and books etc. are not blocking pathways on the floor. Please make sure that you keep the floors clean of debris throughout the class to prevent tripping, slipping etc. If something spills, please wipe up immediately and alert instructor.

Project storage: There is a limited amount of locked storage for projects that are in progress. You may need to transport projects back and forth. It is your responsibility to remember to bring project back if you take it home in between. You will be instructed when it is okay to work on a project at home otherwise you are to assume all work is to be done in class.

Material storage: Every piece of material has a specific storage area. Please do not just put stuff away anywhere you want. Please do not take things out of the cabinets on your own. If you need a supply please see the instructor. Please do not take extra supplies. If you are found to have taken more than one project, you will loose points from the class.

Clean up: All students are expected to clean up their work area and help clean up the classroom before leaving. When the teacher says it is time for clean up, you are required to put down your tools and project and begin clean up immediately.

Lifting: Protect your back muscles when lifting heavy objects. Have someone help you and lift with your arms and leg muscles. Secure help with things that are out of your reach or heavy.

Fire protection: Do not bring materials that are flammable from home to use in class. You must get approval for all materials brought from home for class use prior to bringing them in. Fire extinguisher is in the back of the classroom. Any items that have an odor are to be applied outside the classroom in an area that is outdoors. Please make sure to cover work surface outside with plastic prior to working outside.

Injuries: Report all injuries to your instructor

Notify Campus Police

Notify Student Health Services