Cleaning and Disinfection of Blood and Body Spills

To clean up blood and body fluid spills it is essential to remove any sharp objects and clean the spill before attempting to disinfect the area. The presence of organic material will rapidly inactivate disinfectants. Any disinfectant that is recommended for low-level disinfection may be used, but strict attention must be paid to the concentration and the contact time recommended by the manufacturer.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING AFTER A BLOOD OR BODY FLUID SPILL:

1. Assemble materials required for dealing with the spill prior to putting on PPE.

2. Inspect the area around the spill thoroughly for splatters or splashes.

3. Restrict the activity around the spill until the area has been cleaned and disinfected and is completely dry.

4. Put on gloves; if there is a possibility of splashing, wear a gown and facial protection (mask and eye protection or face shield).

5. Confine and contain the spill; wipe up any blood or body fluid spills immediately using either disposable towels or a product designed for this purpose. Dispose of materials by placing them into regular waste receptacle, unless the soiled materials are so wet that blood can be squeezed out of them, in which case they must be segregated into the biomedical waste container (i.e., yellow bag).

6. Disinfect the entire spill area with a hospital-grade disinfectant and allow it to stand for the amount of time recommended by the manufacturer.

7. Wipe up the area again using disposable towels and discard into regular waste.

8. Care must be taken to avoid splashing or generating aerosols during the clean up.

9. Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING AFTER A BLOOD OR BODY FLUID SPILL ON CARPET

1. Assemble materials required for dealing with the spill prior to putting on PPE.

2. Restrict the activity around the spill until the area has been cleaned and disinfected and is completely dry.

3. Put on gloves; if there is a possibility of splashing, wear a gown and facial protection (mask and eye protection or face shield).

4. Mop up as much of the spill as possible using disposable towels.

5. Disinfect the entire spill area with a hospital-grade disinfectant and allow it to stand for the amount of time recommended by the manufacturer.

6. Safely dispose of the cleanup materials and gloves by placing them in the waste receptacle, unless the soiled materials are so wet that blood can be squeezed out of them, in which case they must be segregated into the biomedical waste container (i.e., yellow bag).

7. Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene.

8. Arrange for the carpet to be cleaned with an industrial carpet cleaner as soon as possible.

NOTE: Carpeting is discouraged for areas where spills of blood or other body substances may be anticipated (e.g., procedure rooms, intensive care units). Carpeting, if used, must be easily removed and replaced (e.g., carpet tiles) if the procedure above is not effective.


Additional Resources:
