Policy:
Standard Precautions applies to all patients receiving care in hospitals, regardless of their diagnosis or presumed infection status. Standard Precautions are designed to reduce the risk of transmission of microorganisms from both recognized and unrecognized sources of infection in hospitals.

I. Standard Precautions apply to:
   A. Blood;
   B. All body fluids, secretions, and excretions (except sweat), regardless of whether or not they contain visible blood;
   C. Non intact skin; and
   D. Mucous membranes.

II. Hand hygiene
   A. Wash hands after touching blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions, and contaminated items, whether or not gloves are worn. Wash hands immediately after gloves are removed, between patient contacts, and when otherwise indicated to avoid transfer of microorganisms to other patients or environments. It may be necessary to wash hands between tasks and procedures on the same patient to prevent cross-contamination of different body sites.
   B. May use alcohol handsanitizer when hands are not physically dirty.
   C. Use an antimicrobial agent for specific circumstances (e.g., control of outbreaks). (See Contact Precautions and Hand hygiene for additional recommendations on using antimicrobial and antiseptic agents.)

III. Gloves
   A. Wear gloves (clean, non sterile gloves are adequate) when touching blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions, and contaminated items.
   B. Put on clean gloves just before touching mucous membranes and nonintact skin.
   C. Change gloves between tasks and procedures on the same patient after contact with material that may contain a high concentration of microorganisms.
   D. Remove gloves promptly after use, before touching non contaminated items and environmental surfaces, and before going to another patient.
   E. Wash hands immediately to avoid transfer of microorganisms to other patients or environments.

IV. Mask, Eye Protection, Face Shield
   Wear a mask and eye protection or a face shield to protect mucous membranes of the eyes, nose, and mouth during procedures and patient-care activities that are likely to generate splashes or sprays of blood, body fluids, secretions, and excretions.
V. **Gown**

A. **Wear a gown** (a clean, nonsterile gown is adequate) **to protect skin and to prevent soiling of clothing** during procedures and patient-care activities that are likely to generate splashes or sprays of blood, body fluids, secretions, or excretions. Select a gown that is appropriate for the activity and amount of fluid likely to be encountered.

B. **Remove a soiled gown as promptly as possible.**

C. **Wash hands to avoid transfer** of microorganisms to other patients or environments.

VI. **Patient-Care Equipment**

A. **Handle used patient-care equipment** soiled with blood, body fluids, secretions, and excretions in a manner that prevents skin and mucous membrane exposures, contamination of clothing, and transfer of microorganisms to other patients and environments.

B. **Ensure that reusable equipment** is not used for the care of another patient until it has been cleaned and reprocessed appropriately.

C. **Ensure that single-use items are discarded properly.**

VII. **Environmental Control**

Ensure adequate cleaning and disinfection procedure for environmental surfaces, beds, bedrails, bedside equipment, and other frequently touched surfaces.

VIII. **Linen**

Handle, transport, and process used linen soiled with blood, body fluids, secretions, and excretions in a manner that prevents skin and mucous membrane exposures and contamination of clothing, and that avoids transfer of microorganisms to other patients and environments.

IX. **Patient Placement**

Place a patient who contaminates the environment or who does not (or cannot be expected to) assist in maintaining appropriate hygiene or environmental control in a private room. If a private room is not available, consult with Infection Control regarding patient placement or other alternatives.

X. **Immunocompromised Patients**

Immunocompromised patients are at increased risk for bacterial, fungal, parasitic, and viral infections from both endogenous and exogenous sources. The use of Standard Precautions for all patients and Transmission-Based Precautions for specified patients, should reduce the acquisition by these patients of institutionally acquired bacteria from other patients and environments.
XI. **Occupational Health and Bloodborne Pathogens**

A. Take care to prevent injuries when using needles, scalpels, and other sharp instruments or devices; Use safety features when available
B. When handling sharp instruments after procedures;
C. When cleaning used instruments;
D. Disposing of used needles;
E. Never recap used needles, or otherwise manipulate them using both hands, or use any other technique that involves directing the point of a needle toward any part of the body; rather, use either a one-handed "scoop" technique or a mechanical device designed for holding the needle sheath. Do not remove used needles from disposable syringes by hand, and do not bend, break, or otherwise manipulate used needles by hand.
F. Place used disposable syringes and needles, scalpels, and other sharp items in appropriate puncture-resistant containers, which are located as close as practical to the area in which the items were used. Containers will be replaced when 3/4 full. Place reusable sharps in a puncture-resistant container for transport to the reprocessing area.
G. Mouth pieces, resuscitation bags or other ventilation devices should be available for use in areas in which the need for resuscitation is predictable.
H. Eating, drinking, applying cosmetics or lipbalm and handling contact lenses are prohibited in nurses stations and work areas where there is reasonable likelihood of occupational exposure to pathogens. These practices must be limited to designated areas (staff lounge, cafeteria, conference rooms, etc).
I. Specimen Collection: Disposable gloves should be used when collecting specimens. Care should be taken when collecting specimens to avoid contamination of the outside of the container and the accompanying lab form. All specimens of blood and body fluids must be placed in a well-constructed container with a secure lid, sealed to prevent leakage, and then placed in an impervious, clear plastic bag with a biohazardous label, for transport. If the outside of the container is visibly contaminated, it should be cleaned and disinfected.
J. If personal clothing becomes contaminated with blood or body fluids which require the clothing to be changed, the clothing should be placed in a plastic bag and taken to environmental services to launder. Temporary scrubs will be issued to the employee.
K. Gloves, gowns, resuscitation equipment and other personal protective equipment in patient rooms must be restocked as needed per hospital or department policy.

XII. **Respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette**

A. Post signs in strategic places within ambulatory and inpatient settings with instructions to patients and others with symptoms of a respiratory infection to cover their mouths/noses when coughing or sneezing
B. Use tissues and dispose in a no touch receptacle
C. Observe hand hygiene after soiling of hands with respiratory secretions
D. Provide conveniently-located dispensers of alcohol-based hand rubs
E. Wear surgical mask if tolerated or maintain spatial separation > 3 feet if possible