

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

POLICY

Our practice has available Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) which includes heavy duty protective gloves, gowns, plastic aprons, masks (surgical & P2), eye protection; or other protective barriers in all cases where there is potential for contact with blood or body fluids such as when cleaning, performing procedures, dealing with spills or handling waste and when dealing with infectious diseases.

PROCEDURE

All staff and patients have easy access to appropriate PPE. In areas where PPE is used there are posters providing education on the appropriate application, removal and disposal of PPE

PPE is also used when handling chemicals such as cleaning products or Liquid Nitrogen.

Our practice ensures and documents that all staff receive education, at induction and on an ongoing basis, as to the appropriate use of various types of PPE, and where to access PPE.

PPE includes:

- Gloves (sterile, non-sterile and standard rubber type)
- face masks including standard surgical and P2 masks
- face and eye shields
- gowns (long and short sleeved)
- plastic aprons.

All staff understands and are competent in:

- Determining the appropriate use and selecting the correct type of PPE for the presenting situation
- Explaining the purpose of different PPE equipment
- Demonstrating the correct fitting and removal of PPE and the safe disposal of these items.

PPE is located in the treatment room, maintenance and reordering of PPE is the responsibility of the Registered Nurse.

All staff use appropriate PPE when undertaking any of the following procedures:

- any examinations requiring contact with mucous membranes
- cleaning or dressing wounds, taking down bandages
- cleaning up after procedures
- preparing instruments and equipment for sterilisation
- assisting with or performing procedures
- cleaning of contaminated surfaces
- Cleaning spills of blood & body fluids

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- using chemicals
- taking blood
- handling all pathology specimens before they are bagged
- controlling bleeding.

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