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Reviewed By: Mohamad Khraizat	Title: Health Operations Manager
Signature: 	Date: 3/31/22

I. POLICY:

It is the policy of the ACCESS Mental Health and Family Counseling (ACCESS), to follow all federal, state and local requirements regarding Bloodborne Pathogens that ensure protection from risk of exposure for individuals and families, employees, contractors, interns and volunteers. This policy establishes guidelines to reduce the risk associated with exposure to blood and/or body fluids and/or airborne pathogens. Universal precautions is an approach to infection control whereby all human blood and body fluids are treated as if infectious for HIV, HBV and other pathogens.

II. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to ACCESS staff on the importance of using "Universal Precautions" to prevent or reduce the spread of blood borne pathogens.

III. APPLICATION:

The policy applies to the ACCESS, contractors, interns, and volunteers who provide support and treatment on behalf of the agency.

IV. PROCEDURE:

- A. ACCESS shall provide staff training specific to Universal Precautions to ensure staff maintains current knowledge of all laws and policies specific to bloodborne pathogen exposure. Trainings may be video or live. This topic may be included in the Emergency Policies and Procedures Training.
- B. ACCESS staff training will include training specific to the importance of hand washing as the first line of defense in the control of infectious diseases. Hand washing is the single most important means of preventing the spread of infection.
 Ensure ACCESS staff, especially Medical Assistant, are trained specific to the importance of hand washing prior to and after direct patient care or after handling potentially contaminated materials.
- C. Ensure all staff utilize appropriate hand washing:

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- After contact with another person
 - When hands are visibly soiled
 - After handling personal items
 - Before and after eating
 - After coughing or sneezing
 - After using tissue or handkerchief
 - After using bathroom
 - Before and after smoking
 - Upon arrival and before leaving work
 - After handling garbage
- D. Ensure ACCESS staff who are exposed to HIV or HBV while in the line of duty contact the ACCESS Human Resources and Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority Risk Management Division. Risk Management Division is responsible for current procedures for post-exposure-incident evaluation, recommendations and for making appropriate changes to reduce the risk of further exposures.
- E. Ensure documentation of all providers and individual-training specific to the Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan is maintained in each employee's personnel file.
- F. Non-porous gloves must be worn in all situations where the potential for exposure to blood and/or body fluids exists. Due to possible anaphylactic reaction, latex products should not be used in this system when alternatives are available.
- a. Gloves must be replaced if they become torn or punctured.
 - b. Personnel must wash their hands as soon as possible after removing their gloves.
- G. Eye protection and masks or face shields must be worn in all situations where potential exposure to droplets or splashing of blood and/or body fluids exists.
- H. The airway should be established, and ventilation maintained using adjuncts that reduce exposure to blood and/or body fluids.
- I. Used needles should not be recapped after use and must be disposed of properly.
- J. Needles, scalpels and/or other "sharps" must be placed in puncture resistant containers for disposal. Filled containers must be properly sealed and disposed.

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- K. Health care providers with exudative lesions and/or weeping dermatitis must refrain from direct patient care and/or care and cleaning of contaminated or possibly contaminated equipment until the condition resolves.
- L. Precautions outlined above must be used when cleaning contaminated or potentially contaminated equipment.
- M. Proper respiratory precautions must be used when treating any patient that is suspected or confirmed to be infectious for Tuberculosis.

V. QUALITY ASSURANCE/ IMPROVEMENT:

ACCESS Staff Development and Training Committee shall review and monitor adherence to this policy.

VI. COMPLIANCE WITH ALL APPLICABLE LAWS:

ACCESS, its affiliates, service providers, and other contracted and subcontracted employees are bound by all applicable local, state and federal laws, rules, regulations, all Federal waiver requirements, and state and county contractual requirements, policies and administrative directives in effect, or as amended.