



**2016 e newsletter # 1 - February.**

**Your Standard Precautions Policy**

In each of the 10 e newsletters for 2016, I am previewing some policy templates I use when doing policies for practices - how does your policy line up with the setting out, content and accuracy here? Each of my 14 policy templates includes: procedures, resources, contacts, references and further notes - available for purchase for your completion or my help.

**1. PREAMBLE**

- 1.1 Standard precautions are measures that staff take to reduce transmission of infection when delivering health care to all patients regardless of perceived risk.
- 1.2 Standard precautions are required when anticipating contact with any body fluid (except sweat), non-intact skin and mucous membranes.
- 1.3 These precautions include hand hygiene, use of personal protective equipment (PPE) which includes gloves etc..... It also includes appropriate disposal of sharps etc.
- 1.4 There are current Australian national guidelines<sup>1</sup> to inform on when standard precautions are required. This policy follows these guidelines.
- 1.5 Transmission-based precautions incorporate Standard Precautions but are used for patients known or suspected to be infected or colonised with infectious agents not be contained by standard precautions alone.

**2. POLICY**

- 2.1 All staff are educated at start of employment in what Standard Precautions are and when they are required. They know that any contact with body fluids represents potential for transmission of infection.
- 2.2 Annual competency checking of all staff knowledge and implementation of Standard Precautions is currently provided by .....
- 2.3 Ongoing education and updates are provided to all staff every 2 years by a suitable external provider. Currently this is .....
- 2.4 Staff, including cleaning staff/contractors, are protected for Hepatitis B.
- 2.5 Suitable protective equipment is available in spill kits, reception, consulting & treatment rooms. Mounted sharps bins are provided at point of use for safer sharps disposal.
- 2.6 Staff performing procedures involving contact with mucous membranes and non intact skin wear gloves as part of standard precautions. Where body fluid splash may occur, face protection and aprons/gowns are worn
- 2.7 Procedures, resources, references and notes to assist policy interpretation are found attached to this policy.

*To then give your policy life, follow with procedures requiring precaution e.g surgery, body fluid spills etc*