

# Sample Hospital

## Patient Decontamination Program

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Policy # DCN\_POL2.DOC

Date:

Purpose: The Decontamination Unit is to be utilized when the Emergency Department receives a victim/victims that have been contaminated with a known/unknown hazardous chemical. The Decontamination Unit has been designed to protect the Emergency Department staff as well. as hospital staff, patients and visitors.

Procedure:

### I. INSTITUTING DECONTAMINATION PROCEDURE

- a. Upon notification of the Emergency Department by ambulance personnel, police, fire department or local industry that we would be receiving contaminated victims:
  1. A staff nurse will obtain a victim information record (see attached form) and gather as much information about the chemicals involved, how many victims, what injuries or side effects the victims may be experiencing and the estimated time of arrival.
  2. The Emergency Room Physician, Coordinator or Nursing Supervisor will be notified of the situation. Also a call will be placed to Poison Control to inform them of how many victims and the hazardous chemicals we will be dealing with.
  3. Three staff members, two emergency room personnel and one orderly will start suiting up in chemical resistant suits using the following procedure:
    - a. Put on shoe covers and exam gloves.
    - b. Put on chemical resistant coveralls.
    - c. Place duct tape around cuffs over exam gloves.
    - d. Zip up suit and place duct tape over flap.
    - e. Put on chemical resistant gloves.
    - f. Place duct tape around cuffs of gloves, taping them to suit.
    - g. Attach high pressure hoses to the outlets.
    - h. Turn on the first three air tanks; those tanks are numbered 1, 2, 3.
    - i. Check regulator gauge (gauge closest to the door) to see that the pressure reading is not above 100 p.s.i. or below 60 p.s.i. If pressure above 100 p.s.i. reduce pressure by turning handle on regulator counter-clockwise. If pressure below 60 p.s.i. increase pressure by turning handle on regulator clockwise. If possible try to maintain a pressure Of 70-75 p.s.i.
    - j. Before putting on SCBA, attach SCBA to high pressure hoses and adjust pressure again if needed.
    - k. Put on self-contained breathing apparatus and make sure you have a proper fit.
  1. Pull up hood and place a piece of duct tape across the neck area.  
Note: The orderly will suit up the same, but will wear a full-face air purifying respirator so he can assist the unloading of victims from the ambulance.

### II. DECONTAMINATION PROCESSES

- A. The victim/victims will have a physical assessment done and emergency treatment given prior to decontaminating the victims.
- B. Prior to the victims taking a shower/scrub down, take a swab starting with the eye area and swab as much body surface as possible.
- C. Place swab in plastic bag and have someone outside the decontamination area mark the bag with: time, date, patient's name, and "Pre-scrub down sample."
- D. After victim has taken a shower/scrubbed down, repeat the same swabbing process going over the same areas. Place swab in plastic bag and have someone outside the decontamination area mark the bag with: time, date, patient's name, and Post-scrub down sample."
- E. After shower place victim in gown, surgical shoe covers and plastic shoe covers. Place blanket around victim if needed. At the door leading out of the decontamination room, remove plastic shoe covers and have someone take victim into the E.R.

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- F. After scrub down by staff, dry patient, transfer from wash-down stretcher to E.R. stretcher at doorway leading out of the Decontamination Room. Cover patient with blankets and transport to the E.R. area.

### III. REMOVING PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

#### A. Remove in the order listed.

1. Remove tape from under neck, around protective gloves and flap.
2. Remove chemical resistant gloves.
3. Remove tape from around cuffs of suit.
4. Remove hood and unzip suit.
5. Remove suit being careful not to touch inside of suit.
6. Remove self-contained breathing apparatus and turn off air supply.
7. Remove shoe covers and gloves.

Note: Place all articles, except breathing apparatus, in trash cans .

### IV. CLEAN-UP OF UNIT

A. The decontamination unit will be locked and Petrochem will be called to take water samples. These samples will be sent to Environmental Consults for testing. The extent of clean-up will be determined from the results of samples.