Procedure for Accidental Spillage and Management of Accidental Exposure with Blood/Body Fluids

Specific groups of staff have been trained to deal with spillages in general areas, namely portering and domestic staff. Clinical staff should deal with spillages in clinical areas. Where staff are not adequately trained to deal with such instances they should secure the area and immediately contact their Line Manager.

Whenever a spillage occurs staff should locate the nearest spillage kit within their area and ensure that all required equipment is available. To aid staff, a content list should be provided. If contents are missing or inadequate staff should immediately contact their Line Manager.

A warning sign should be placed beside the spillage area (wet floor sign will suffice).

Before any spillage is dealt with, staff should be wearing the correct Personal Protective Equipment, the minimum being disposable gloves and plastic apron.

In clinical areas staff should follow the guidance laid out in the Trust ‘Infection Control Manual’. In general areas, a small amount of ‘on-duty’ granules should be used to cover the spillage. Allow time for the spill to be soaked up then as much of the granules and spillage as is possible should be lifted. This material should be placed in the orange clinical waste bag provided. Remember this material now contains the same hazard as the original spill and should be handled accordingly.

When the bulk of the spillage has been removed the area should be washed with ‘a general-purpose detergent eg. ‘Hospec’. It is imperative that the operator minimises splashing, as far as is possible, whilst carrying out the washing down procedure. If mops are used they should be rinsed, bagged and sent for machine washing.

After washing down and any other related work has been carried out, the disposable apron and gloves should be carefully removed and placed into the same orange bag as the spillage. This bag should now be sealed using a clinical waste tag provided within the spillage kit and disposed of in the correct manner.

Good hygiene standards should be maintained at all times and hands should be thoroughly washed after spillage procedure has been completed.

The incident should then be recorded using the NHS Lothian Incident Reporting System.