

December 2003

Mercy University Hospital Guidelines For Dealing with Spillages.

Introduction

In the interest of Health & Safety spillage must be dealt with as quickly as possible and each staff member who discovers spillage is obliged to take responsibility/follow the guidelines. (However in the event of not being able to do so at the time, the relevant day/night nurse manager should be informed)

Depending on the nature of the spillage these guidelines vary, but, the common denominator is the immediate placing of warning cones on either side of the spillage (or somebody to guard the area until these cones have been placed). The cones should be left at the site until the area is completely dry/safe. Cones are available in the cleaning stores on all departments and at reception for spillages in the public areas - hall, stairwells, back offices, corridors etc.

Noonan Cleaning Services Ltd. are available on Bleep 6690

Monday - Friday

9am - 8pm.

Saturday & Sunday

9am- 11am

Spillages of water, milk, tea etc.

These may be dealt with by any member of staff

- Ensure the safety of patients/staff/visitors at all times. Depending on the area/size of the spillage etc. it may be necessary to cordon off the area or in a ward setting request patients to move away from the site.
- Wipe up the spillage immediately using water and detergent and dry.
- If cones are in place do not remove until the area is completely dry.

Blood/Body Substance Spillage (with the exception of urine)

Blood/ Body fluid spillage should be dealt with immediately.

Cordon off the area –placing the cones to the back and front of the spillage

Note: Procedures to be carried out by Nursing staff to renders the spill harmless to facilitate the Contract Cleaners/ Care Attendants/ other for final cleaning.

- Wearing disposable gloves - spread hypochlorite granules ie. – Presept over the spillage
- Cover the area with disposable towels and leave for a few minutes.

Final Cleaning - Wearing gloves, apron, (mask if large spill) dispose of the debris as clinical waste (yellow bag): wash the area thoroughly with detergent and water. Leave area to dry before removing the warning cones.

Spillage of Urine

Unfortunately acidic solutions such as urine may react with hypochlorite, as in Presept /Milton etc. and cause release of chlorine vapour.

- Put on disposable gloves, apron
- Soak up spill with disposable towels
- Discard into a yellow bag
- Wash the area with detergent and water.
- Milton may be used afterwards

Mercury Spillage

- Cordon off the area as already described.
- Contact the Reception Desk (5201) and arrange for the Reception porter to deal with the spillage.

A special kit is available at reception and the reception porters have been trained accordingly. This applies to both day/night spillages.

There are Local Guidelines relevant to specific areas, and in the event of discovering spillage in i.e. any of the under mentioned please contact the relevant departments (who themselves will deal with the matter)

- **X-ray Dept-** Radio Active Spillage
- **Laboratories-** Chemical Spillage
- **Oncology-** Urine spillage post Radiotherapy etc.
- **Maintenance Dept.** – Chemical Spillage etc.

Any further queries contact- *Infection Control Department*
Occupational Health Department
Hotel Services Department.