TELLURIAN UCAN, INC.	STANDARD PRACTICE	SPM#
SUBJECT: Universal Precautions	Page 1 of 1	
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General Policy: Since medical history and examination cannot reliably identify all patients infected with HIV or other blood borne pathogens, blood and body precautions should be consistently used for **ALL PATIENTS.** This approach has been recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and is referred to as 'universal blood and body fluid precautions' or 'universal precautions' (Ref: Centers for Disease Control, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, August 21, 1987, Volume 36, No. 25).

Procedure:

A. Gloves should be worn when:
1. Touching blood and body fluids, mucus membranes or non-intact skin of **ALL PATIENTS**.
2. Handling items on surfaces soiled with blood or body fluids.
3. When handling and inventorying patient property.
4. Gloves should be changed immediately if puncture occurs or as promptly as patient safety permits.
5. Gloves should be changed after each patient contact. Hands should be washed immediately after gloves are removed.

B. Hand washing should be done when:
1. Gloves are removed.
2. Skin surfaces are accidentally contaminated with blood and body fluids.
3. Arriving at work - between patients - after use of toilet facilities - leaving work.

C. Equipment guidelines:
1. Needles should not be bent, recapped, broken, removed from syringes or manipulated.
2. Needles and sharps should be disposed of in a puncture-resistant container located as close as possible to the use area and labeled with a biohazard warning.
3. Reusable instruments and equipment should be cleaned with gloved hands.
4. Reusable equipment should be soaked as soon as possible and not scrubbed so as to prevent aerosolization of particles.

D. Environmental guidelines:
1. Soiled linen should be handled as little as possible and with minimal agitation to prevent airborne contamination.
2. Soiled linen should be bagged at the site of use.
3. Wet or bloody linen should be bagged in bags that prevent leakage.
4. Horizontal surfaces (beside tables, mattresses, floors, etc.) should be cleaned on a regular basis, when soiling or spills occur, or when a patient is transferred or discharged.
5. Cleaning of walls and blinds is recommended only if visibly soiled.
6. Wipe spills of blood or body fluids with liquid germicide and paper towel and dispose. Follow with 1:10 dilution of bleach. Gloves should be worn for clean up.
7. Large spills of blood or body fluids should be flooded with liquid germicide before cleaning and then decontaminated with a fresh solution. Bleach (1:10) should be used. Gloves should be worn for clean up.
8. Staff MUST receive documented updated education and training pertaining to blood borne pathogens on an annual basis.