

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS Standard Operating Procedures		
Policy Name: Laboratory Safety		
Policy Number: 507.04.83	Effective Date: 06/12/15	Page Number 1 of 2
Authority: Bryson/Evans	Originating Division: Operations, Planning and Training Division	Access Listing: Level I: All Access

I. Introduction and Summary:

Laboratories will be maintained in a clean, sanitary and safe condition to reduce the possibility of exposure to potentially infectious body fluids or materials. All staff will follow strict Standard Precautions.

II. Authority:

- A. NCCHC 2014 Adult Standard: P-D-04.
- B. NCCHC 2011 Juvenile Standard: Y-D-04.
- C. ACA 2003 4th Ed. Standard: 4-4393, 4-4365.
- D. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Bloodborne Pathogens Standards.
- E. Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) Policy. Georgia Department of Human Resources. Division of Public Health, 1995
- F. GDC SOPs:
 - 1. VH37-0002 [Needle & Syringe Control]
 - 2. VH54-0001 [Infection Control] Definitions: Include statements and specific explanations for words or initials in the policy that could be interpreted in more than one way.

III. Statement of Policy and Applicable Procedures:

- A. When conducting procedures/tests, laboratory workers will wear gloves and other protective barriers to reduce the risk of exposure to blood and other body fluids. They will follow strict Standard Precaution procedures.
- B. After completion of procedures the work surfaces will be decontaminated with an appropriate disinfectant, such as a solution of 5.25% sodium hypochlorite (household bleach) diluted 1:1.
- C. After any blood or body fluid spill, surfaces will be decontaminated in accordance with VH54-0001 [Infection Control Program].

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- D. Immediately after use, contaminated needles will be placed in the sharps puncture-resistant containers. Needles will be removed from the vacutainer holder without being recapped. Safety needles must be used when available.
 - E. Infectious waste will be disposed of in color-coded bags or containers according to OSHA standards.
 - F. Food and drink will not be kept in the laboratory refrigerator or consumed in the laboratory work area.
 - G. Refrigerator temperatures must be maintained in the recommended range and recorded on a refrigerator temperature log.
 - H. Biohazard trash and infectious waste will be collected at a minimum of bi-weekly and placed in disposable storage containers identified with the word, "Biohazardous" to be disposed of by the vendor that provides such service to the facility. Documentation will be maintained regarding the disposal of biohazardous materials.
 - I. Sharps puncture resistant containers will be used that have a needle removal system from the vacutainer needle holder. Safety needles must be used when available.
 - J. When services requiring the use of sharps are provided outside the routine medical areas such as lockdown units, puncture resistant containers will be taken to the area and used for disposal of used sharps.
- IV. Attachments:
None