

NEW SECTION

246-803-XXX Definitions.

The following definitions pertain to WAC 246-803-XXX through 246-803-XXX.

"Communicable diseases" means an illness caused by an infectious agent which can be transmitted from one person, animal, or object to another person by direct or indirect means including transmission via an intermediate host or vector, food, water or air.

"Decontamination" means the use of physical or chemical means to remove, inactivate, or destroy bloodborne pathogens on a surface or item to the point where they are no longer capable of transmitting infectious particles and the surface or item is rendered safe for handling, use or disposal.

"Needles" mean solid filiform instruments used in the practice of East Asian medicine. This includes, but is not limited to:

- (1) Dermal needles;
- (2) Plum blossom needles;
- (3) Press needles;
- (4) Prismatic needles; and
- (5) Disposable lancets.

All acupuncture needles that are to be used on a patient must be sterile and disposable, and each needle may be used only once.

"Sterilize" means the use of a physical or chemical procedure to destroy all microbial life including highly resistant bacterial endospores, for instruments which enter tissue.

NEW SECTION

246-803-XXX Use of barriers and sterilization techniques.

The use of barriers and sterilization techniques is the primary means of assuring that there is the least possible chance of the transmission of communicable diseases from the East Asian medicine practitioner and staff to patients, from patient to patient and from patient to East Asian medicine practitioner and staff. To prevent patient to patient cross contamination, instruments and supplies contaminated or likely to be contaminated with blood and touched during treatment must be sterilized between patients or discarded except as otherwise set forth below. Surfaces and equipment which are likely to be contaminated with blood and touched during treatment must be decontaminated or covered with a barrier which is discarded and replaced between patients except as otherwise set forth below:

- (1) Gloves.

(a) Medical gloves shall be used by the East Asian medicine practitioner during treatment which involve procedures or contact with items potentially contaminated with blood or body fluids, mucous membranes and non-intact skin of all patients.

(b) Fresh gloves shall be worn for every patient contact or moving from a contaminated to clean body area.

(c) The same pair of gloves shall not be used, removed, and reused for the same patient at the same visit or for any other purpose.

(d) Non-sterile gloves may be used for examinations and other non-surgical procedures. Rubber utility gloves are used for housekeeping chores that involve potential contact with blood, instrument cleaning and decontamination procedures.

(e) Medical, sterile and non-sterile gloves that have been used for East Asian medicine treatment shall not be reused for any non-East Asian medicine purpose.

(f) Gloves shall not be washed or reused for any purpose.

(2) Protective gowns, laboratory coats or uniforms.

(a) Protective gowns or aprons made of materials that provide an effective barrier should be worn during invasive procedures that are likely to result in the splashing of blood or other body fluids.

(b) Protective clothing shall be changed at least daily or when visibly soiled.

(c) Personal protective equipment/clothing shall be removed prior to leaving the work area and placed in an appropriately designated area or container for storage, washing, decontamination or disposal.

(2) Barriers.

(a) Protective barriers reduce the risk of exposure of the health-care worker's skin or mucous membranes to potentially infective materials. Universal precautions are those intended to prevent parenteral exposure of health worker's mucous membranes and non-intact skin to blood-borne pathogens.

(b) Unless effective surface decontamination methods are used, protective barriers shall be placed over areas of the treatment room which are likely to be touched during treatment, not removable to be sterilized, and likely to be contaminated by blood. These procedures must be followed between each patient.

(3) Sterilization and disinfection of instruments:

(a) Every East Asian medicine practitioner clinic shall have the capability to ultrasonically clean and sterilize contaminated items by autoclave, dry heat, unsaturated formaldehyde/alcohol vapor (such as MDT Chemiclave®) or ethylene oxide. Sterilizers shall be tested by biological spore test on at least a weekly basis. In the event of a positive biological

spore test, the East Asian medicine practitioner shall take immediate remedial action to ensure the objectives of (a) of this subsection are accomplished. Documentation shall be maintained either in the form of a log reflecting dates and person(s) conducting the testing or copies of reports from an independent testing entity. The documentation shall be maintained for a period of at least five years.

(b) Gross debris shall be removed from items prior to sterilization. Ultrasonic cleaning shall be used whenever possible.

(c) Nondisposable items used in patient care which cannot be autoclaved, dry heat, unsaturated formaldehyde/alcohol vapor (such as MDT Chemiclave®) or ethylene oxide sterilized shall be immersed in a chemical sterilant. If such a technique is used, the solution shall be approved by the Environmental Protection Agency and used in accordance with the manufacturer's directions for sterilization.

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246-803-XXX Management of single use items.

(1) Sterile disposable needles shall be used. The same hypodermic needle may be recapped with a single-handed recapping technique or recapping device and subsequently reused for the same patient during the same visit.

(2) Single use items used in patient treatment which have been contaminated by blood shall be discarded and not reused.

(3) After they are used, needles are to be placed in a puncture-resistant container for disposal. These containers should be located as close as is practical to the use area.