

**RULES
OF
TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
COMMUNICABLE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DISEASE SERVICES**

**CHAPTER 1200-14-03
POLICY FOR PREVENTING TRANSMISSION OF CERTAIN SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE
(HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV), HEPATITIS B VIRUS (HBV) AND HEPATITIS C VIRUS
(HCV)) TO PATIENTS THROUGH MEDICAL AND DENTAL PROCEDURES**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1200-14-03-.01	Purpose and Background	1200-14-03-.03	Administration and Implementation of the Policy
1200-14-03-.02	Definitions		

1200-14-03-.01 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND.

The proper application of infection control principles will minimize any risk of transmission of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) or Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) from health care worker (HCW) to patient, patient to HCW or patient to patient. HIV, HBV or HCV infection alone does not justify or support limiting a HCW's professional duties. Limitations, if any, should be determined on a case-by-case basis after consideration of the factors that influence transmission risk including inability and/or unwillingness to comply with infection control standards and/or functional impairments which interfere with the job performance of the HCW.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-204, 63-1-120(8), 63-1-136, 63-6-219, 68-1-101, 68-1-103, 68-1-106, 68-10-101, 68-10-109, 68-10-112, 68-10-113, 68-10-114, 68-29-107, and Public Law 102-141, Section 633.

Administrative History: Original rule filed August 20, 1993; effective November 3, 1993. Amendments filed July 3, 2019; effective October 1, 2019.

1200-14-03-.02 DEFINITIONS. For the purpose of these regulations, the terms used herein are defined as follows:

- (1) Health Care Worker (HCW) - Any person whose activities involve contact with patients or with blood or other body fluids, in a health care setting, including persons licensed to practice the healing arts or any branch thereof, in this state pursuant to the provisions of Title 63 of the Tennessee Code Annotated, and students and trainees.
- (2) Standard Precautions - An approach to infection control according to which all human blood and certain human body fluids are to be treated as if known to be infectious for HIV, HBV, HCV and/or other blood-borne pathogens. Standard Precautions are also intended to protect patients by ensuring that healthcare personnel do not carry infectious agents to patients on their hands or via equipment used during patient care.
 - (a) In order to prevent the transmission of blood-borne infections, Standard Precautions requires the blanket implementation of infection control procedures, including, in regard to the use and disposal of needles and other sharp instruments, appropriate care and proper utilization of handwashing and protective barriers. Guidelines for Standard Precautions are published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and can be found in The Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee.2007 Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Health Care Settings. Am J Infect Control. 2007 Dec;35(10 Suppl 2):S65-164, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajic.2007.10.007>.

(Rule 1200-14-03-.02, continued)

- (b) Standard Precautions combine the major features of Universal Precautions (UP)780, 896 and Body Substance Isolation (BSI)640 and are based on the principle that all blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions except sweat, nonintact skin, and mucous membranes may contain transmissible infectious agents. Standard Precautions include a group of infection prevention practices that apply to all patients, regardless of suspected or confirmed infection status, in any setting in which healthcare is delivered. These include: hand hygiene; use of gloves, gown, mask, eye protection, or face shield, depending on the anticipated exposure; and safe injection practices. Also, equipment or items in the patient environment likely to have been contaminated with infectious body fluids must be handled in a manner to prevent transmission of infectious agents (e.g., wear gloves for direct contact, contain heavily soiled equipment, properly clean and disinfect or sterilize reusable equipment before use on another patient).

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-204, 63-1-120(8), 63-1-136, 63-6-219, 68-1-101, 68-1-103, 68-1-106, 68-10-101, 68-10-109, 68-10-112, 68-10-113, 68-10-114, 68-29-107, and Public Law 102-141, Section 633.

Administrative History: Original rule filed August 20, 1993; effective November 3, 1993. Amendments filed July 3, 2019; effective October 1, 2019.

1200-14-03-.03 ADMINISTRATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY.

- (1) All HCW's shall adhere to Standard Precautions in the provision of health care services. HCWs must comply with current guidelines for disinfection and sterilization of reusable devices used in medical and dental procedures. All HCW's shall receive periodic training in infection control procedures, including Standard Precautions.
- (2) All HCW's are encouraged to undergo personal assessments to determine their need for HIV, HBV and HCV testing. These assessments should include consideration of known high-risk behavior as well as risks associated with health care related occupational exposure. If they are at risk, HCW's should determine their HIV, HBV and HCV status in order to protect and improve their health and to receive appropriate counseling. The decision to be tested for HIV, HBV or HCV is the responsibility of the individual HCW.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-204, 63-1-120(8), 63-1-136, 63-6-219, 68-1-101, 68-1-103, 68-1-106, 68-10-101, 68-10-109, 68-10-112, 68-10-113, 68-10-114, 68-29-107, and Public Law 102-141, Section 633.

Administrative History: Original rule filed August 20, 1993; effective November 3, 1993. Amendments filed July 3, 2019; effective October 1, 2019.