Best Practice: management of blood and body fluid spillages

1. **Blood and/or body fluid spillage**
   - Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) e.g. non-sterile disposable gloves/aprons.

2. **Is the spillage on soft furnishing e.g. carpets?**
   - **Yes**
     - **Spill contains ONLY urine/ faeces/ vomit/ sputum:**
       - Do not use a chlorine releasing agent directly on a urine spill.
       - Soak up spillage/gross contamination using disposable paper towels.
       - If a urine spillage a gelling agent can be used.
   - **No**
     - **Is it a spill of blood or body fluid as Specified in Box 1?**
       - **Yes**
         - **Decontaminate area with a solution of 1,000 parts per million available chlorine (ppm av clo) solution or use a combined detergent/chlorine releasing solution with a concentration of 1,000 ppm av clo.**
         - Follow manufacturers’ instructions on contact time.
       - **No**
         - **Apply chlorine releasing granules directly to the spill:**
           - If granules not available place disposable paper towels over spillage to absorb and contain it applying solution of 10,000 parts per million available chlorine (ppm av clo) solution to the towels.
           - Follow manufacturers’ instructions on contact time or leave for 3 minutes.
           - Discard the gross contamination into a healthcare waste bag.
           - ‘All NHSScotland settings must use granules, or equivalent product e.g. spill kits.
         - **Wash area with disposable paper towels and a solution of general purpose detergent and warm water.**
         - **Dry area or allow to air dry.**
         - **Discard paper towels and disposable PPE into a healthcare waste bag.**
         - **Perform hand hygiene.**

3. **Box 1**
   - Cerebrospinal fluid
   - Peritoneal fluid
   - Pleural fluid
   - Synovial fluid
   - Amniotic fluid
   - Semen
   - Vaginal secretions
   - Breast milk
   - Any other body fluid with visible blood (excluding urine)

4. **Discuss with IPCT and consider:**
   - If furnishing heavily contaminated you may have to discard it.
   - If the furnishing can withstand a chlorine releasing solution then follow appropriate procedure for the type of spill.
   - If it is safe to clean with detergent alone then follow appropriate procedure.
   - If it is not safe to clean with detergent then the item should be discarded.

---