Best Practice: management of blood and body fluid spillages

Blood and/or body fluid spillage

Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) eg non-sterile disposable gloves/aprons

Is the spillage on soft furnishings eg carpets?

NO

Is it a spill of blood or body fluid as specified in Box 1?

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

• apply chlorine releasing granules directly to the spill.¹
• 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 cl) solution to the towels
• follow manufacturers’ instructions on contact time or leave for 3 minutes
• discard the gross contamination into a healthcare waste bag

¹ all NHS Scotland settings must use granules, or equivalent product eg spill kits

• decontaminate area with a solution of 1,000 parts per million available chlorine (ppm av cl) solution or use a combined detergent/chlorine releasing solution with a concentration of 1,000 ppm av cl
• follow manufacturers’ instructions on contact time

• 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

Discuss with IPCT and consider:
• if furnishing is 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

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)