



## Say No to Infection Fact Sheet: Managing spillages of blood or other body fluids.

### Introduction

Blood spillages and bodily fluid spillages refer to the release or leakage of blood or other body fluids, such as urine, vomit, faeces, or other secretions, onto surfaces or into the environment. These spillages can pose a potential health risk due to the possible presence of microorganisms, including bloodborne viruses like Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV, which can be transmitted through exposure to these fluids.

**Contamination or spillages with blood or body fluids should be dealt with immediately, as this may expose staff and others to infection.**

**Best practice is to use an appropriate spillage kit for the type of spillage, following the manufacturer's guidance and ensuring it is within the expiry date. Some spillage kits are suitable for all types of body fluids, including blood, e.g. spill wipes, always check the manufacturer's instructions on suitability and usage. Alternatively, chlorine-based solutions or granules can be prepared and used.**

### Managing blood/blood-stained body fluid spillages

Items contaminated with blood or any body fluids stained with blood should be disinfected promptly and then the affected area cleaned, to reduce the risk of infection to other people.

#### Actions for dealing with blood/blood-stained fluid spillages

- Clean hands and put on appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) e.g., disposable apron and gloves, and wear facial protection if there is a risk of splashing to the face.
- The required dilution for dealing with blood or blood stained body fluid spillages is 10,000 ppm (parts per million) available chlorine, or equivalent product (must meet BS EN 1276) as per manufacturer's instructions.  
**All products should be within the expiry date and used as per manufacturer's instructions.**
- Ventilate the area, e.g. open windows/doors, as fumes will be released from the chlorine.
- Place solution or granules directly onto the spillage. Follow manufacturers' instructions on contact time.
- Clear away the spillage and dispose of as infectious waste
- With detergent wipes or pH neutral detergent and warm water and disposable cloth, clean the area, then leave to air dry or dry with paper towels.
- Dispose of cloth and paper towels as infectious waste.
- Remove and dispose of gloves, clean hands, remove and dispose of apron, clean hands.

## Managing body fluid spillages (not blood/ blood stained)

Clean up body fluids, such as urine, faeces, and vomit, promptly. The affected area should be cleaned and then disinfected to reduce the risk of infection to other people.

### Actions for dealing with body fluid spillages (not blood/blood stained)

- Clean hands and put on appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) e.g., disposable apron and gloves, and wear facial protection if there is a risk of splashing to the face.
- The required dilution for dealing with body fluid spillages is of 1,000 parts per million (ppm) available chlorine. Hypochlorite tablets can be used.

**All products should be within the expiry date and used as per manufacturer's instructions.**

- Ventilate the area, e.g. open windows/doors, as fumes will be released from the chlorine.
- Soak up any excess liquid or clean up any solid material using paper towels.
- Clear away paper towels and spillage. Dispose of as infectious or offensive waste.
- With a disposable cloth, wash the area with pH neutral detergent and warm water followed by the chlorine-based disinfectant solution, then leave to dry or dry with paper towels.
- Dispose of cloth and paper towels as above.
- Remove and dispose of gloves, clean hands, remove and dispose of apron, clean hands.

**Do not use a solution containing chlorine directly on to urine as toxic fumes will be released.**

## Use of chlorine-based disinfectants

- Always use the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), e.g., disposable apron and gloves, and wear facial protection if there is a risk of splashing to the face.
- Some disinfectants supplied as tablets must be made up with the specified amount of water using a diluter bottle in order to achieve the correct concentration.
- Always use cold water when diluting chlorine-based disinfectants. If the dilution of the chlorine-based disinfectant is incorrect and a weak solution is used, any blood-borne virus, e.g., hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV, **will not be killed**. If the dilution is too strong, the equipment or surfaces may be damaged.
- Diluted chlorine-based disinfectant solutions become less effective after 24 hours. When a solution is made, the date and time should be recorded, and the solution disposed of after 24 hours.
- Do not use a chlorine-based disinfectant solution directly on urine as toxic fumes will be released.

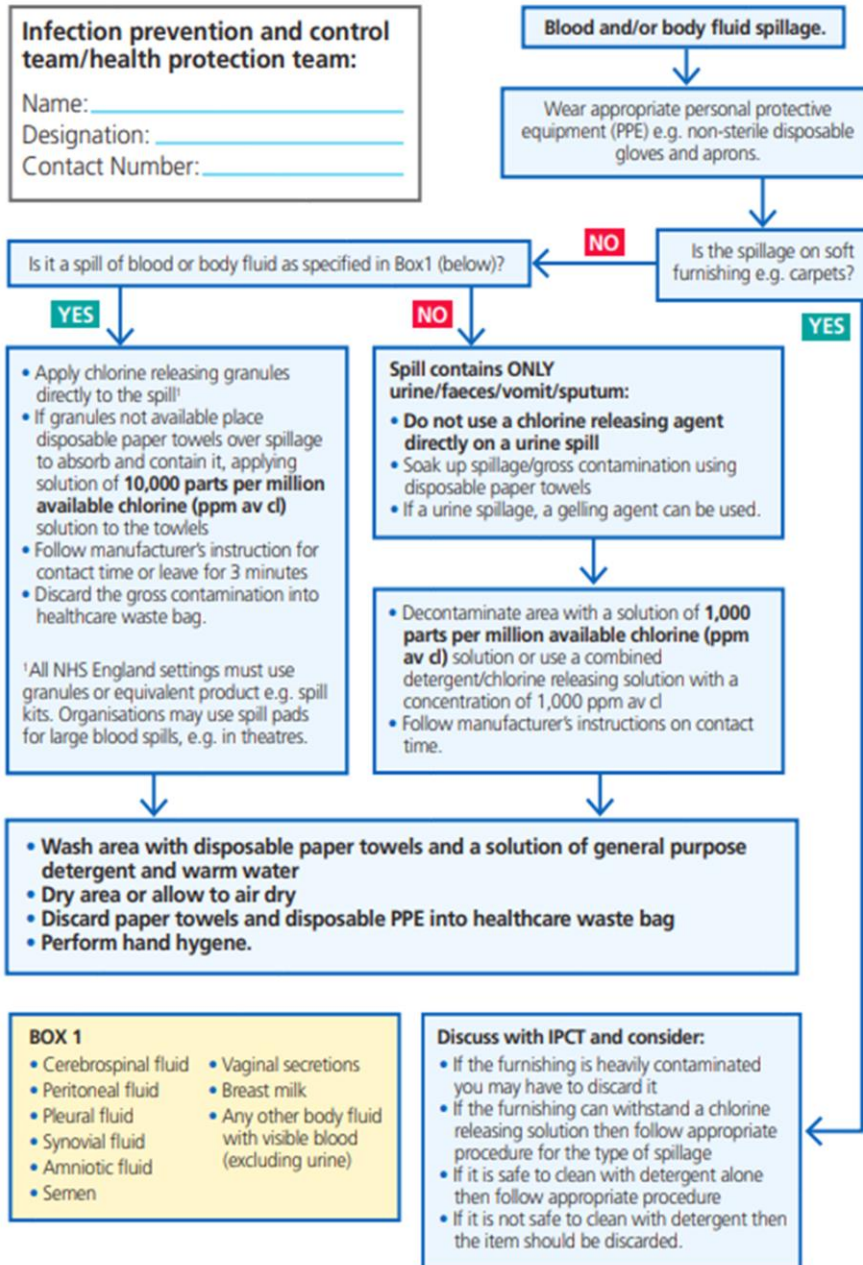
- Chlorine-based disinfectants, such as household bleach, should not be used on soft furnishings, untreated wood and carpets as it will cause 'whitening/bleaching'. Therefore, only pH neutral detergent and warm water, a carpet shampoo machine or steam cleaner, should be used.
- If soft furnishings or other items are heavily contaminated with blood or body fluids that cannot be adequately decontaminated, they should be disposed of.

**Always follow the manufacturers guidelines and safety instructions carefully when making up chlorine-based disinfectants.**

**Spillage kits may contain solidifying polymer granules, a 'National Patient Safety Alert' issued in 2017, advises a risk assessment and procedures in place to ensure supplies are securely stored.**

[Please click on the link for further guidance.](#)

## Appendix 9: Management of blood and body fluid spills



National Infection Prevention and Control Manual (NIPCM) 2025 – please click on the link below  
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/national-infection-prevention-and-control/>

