

POLICY FOR USE OF EXPERIMENTAL ANIMALS IN UPMC HOSPITAL/PATIENT USE AREAS

A. Introduction

1. Experimental animals will only be allowed to enter hospital areas when it has been deemed no other facility is suitable or accessible for that particular study.
2. Current hospital/patient areas include but are not limited to those in Presbyterian, Montefiore, Children's, Falk, and Scaife.
3. Only animals on approved IACUC protocols with descriptions of use areas, rationale for request, approved transportation routes and those following these provisions for infection control will be allowed.
4. Animals should only be brought to areas when there are no patients or family members present or being tested. (Preference is to off-hours prior to 8 am after 6 pm or on weekends).
5. Transportation routes should be delineated and planned to minimize patient and family member contact, general public contact, and university staff contact. The Division of Laboratory Animal Resources (DLAR) provides contract transport services for noncontiguous buildings.
6. No animals are to be kept out of the DLAR longer than 12 hours without review and approval by the IACUC.
7. All staff members involved in the study must wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) specific for the species being transported and tested.

B. Infection Control Recommendations: Research or Teaching Using Experimental Animals in UPMC Health System Patient Use Areas

The following Infection Control protocol should be used for all experimental animals that are certified free of zoonotic disease (by the University Veterinarian, Dr. Joseph Newsome 648-8950 / DLAR+@pitt.edu). Animals experimentally infected with human pathogens or considered to be Biosafety Level (BSL) II or require Animal BSL (ABSL) II precautions or greater risk group studies require approval by submitting a written request to the Infection Control Department (1215 Kaufman contact # 692-2566) for review by the Infection Control Working Group (ICWG). It is recommended that either a DLAR consult (DLAR@pitt.edu 648-8950) and/or Infection Control consult be obtained to discuss plan for route, restraint, transport mechanism, unique infection control, and communication prior to submitting a written request.

1. Animals should be brought to the area in which they will be tested in an enclosed carrier. This carrier is to be covered to avoid direct visualization of animals by the public during transport.
2. Diapers or absorbable pads should be under the animal at all times.
3. Animals should never be placed directly onto the procedure table - several layers of absorbable padding should be used under the animals at all times.

4. Do not use hospital linen for animals. If linens become soiled they should be red bagged and returned to the DLAR for decontamination.
5. After handling the animal, gloves should be changed prior to operating any equipment in the room.
6. After the procedure is completed, return animal or carcass to covered carrier for return transport.
7. Dispose of all biohazardous materials in red bags and sharps in appropriate sharps containers.
8. Disinfect the procedure table and ALL surfaces that have been contacted by wiping the areas(s) with paper towels or disposable cloths saturated with a 10% bleach solution (one part bleach to nine parts water). This solution is to be freshly prepared within 48 hours. Wipe with fresh cloth and plain water and dry. (Alternate sanitizers must be approved by the ICWG)
9. When possible, preference should be to use disposable equipment.
10. Disinfect all accessory reusable equipment (calipers, cassettes, shields, goggles, lead aprons etc.) with paper towels or disposable cloths saturated with a 10% bleach solution. Wipe with fresh cloth and plain water and dry.
11. Mop floor with hospital disinfectant. After mopping, mop head should be bagged and sent to Housekeeping for cleaning. Mop water should be emptied and bucket rinsed out.
12. Red bag trash and/or needle boxes that have been used should be discarded and fresh bags/boxes put in place.
13. If there is any odor in the room after the procedure, spray with air freshener, and do not use the room for a patient until the odor dissipates.
14. Disinfect all spills of body fluids and/or excrement as they occur as follows:
 - Absorb the spill with paper towels and dispose of in a red biohazard waste container.
 - Disinfect the spill site using a 10% bleach solution.
 - Allow the bleach solution to sit for 10 minutes.
 - Clean the spill site using the approved hospital disinfectant.
 - Rinse the spill site with water to remove any noxious odors.
 - Dry the spill site with paper towels.
15. Documentation of proper sanitation is required to comply with sections 11-14 above by completing the *DLAR: Post procedure/Post -op/After Care Form*
16. All projects involving the transport of Non-Human Primates (NHPs), Sheep or goats into hospital spaces must assure all participants complete the appropriate IACUC mandated training and enrollment in the appropriate Occupational Health and Safety programs.
17. Emergency contacts concerning this policy are by pager ICWG = 412-255-9636, DLAR = 412-917-2340.

C. Approvals

IACUC approval: IACUC Chair _____ Date _____

UPMC Infection Control approval:

ICWG Chair _____ Date _____