

## **OSHA and Standard Precautions for your Worker**

### **What are Standard Precautions?**

Standard Precautions are basic infection control guidelines for your workers to follow as they perform their daily work. These guidelines help to prevent the spread of bloodborne diseases and infections.

### **Why should I worry about this?**

As an employer you must adhere to OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) guidelines to protect your workers. You also want to keep yourself and your workers free from communicable disease.



### **What do I need to do?**

- Provide training to your workers by giving them handouts (included in employee packets) and letting them know you expect them to follow these guidelines when providing care to you.
- Reminding them to wash their hands, supplying soap and clean towels or paper towels.
- Supplying them with and requiring them to wear gloves when they are in contact with body fluids (feces, urine, mucous membranes, blood, saliva, etc).
- If your physician requires that your workers wear gowns and masks you must supply these items.
- Supply sharps containers for needle disposal if your workers assist you with injections.
- You need to review this information with your workers upon hire and annually as well as reminders when needed.

### **How do I pay for these items?**

If gloves, gowns, sharps containers or masks are not covered by Medicaid you may purchase them from your IRIS budget. If you also have a Self Directed Personal Care (SDPC) budget the supplies for gloves must come from that allocation. Soap and towels for workers are not to be taken out of IRIS funds.

### **Where can I get additional information?**

You can get further information on OSHA guidelines, Wisconsin Department of Health updates and information on communicable disease and prevention from the following sites or your local County Health Department:

<http://www.osha.gov>

<http://www.cdc.gov>

<http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/emlCustomerHelp/updates/phcl912.htm>