

## **Policy for Communicable and Infectious Disease Temp and Homecare Staff**

Bureau staff, both Registered and non-Registered, may from time to time be asked to care for patients with Infectious or Communicable Diseases. These can include, but are not limited to:

- MRSA
- Gastroenteritis related viruses such as Norovirus
- Scabies
- HIV
- Hepatitis B

### **Clients**

All clients are expected to notify Geneva when an infectious or communicable disease is known to be present (NB clients may not always be aware themselves)

### **Geneva Health**

- o If we are aware of any infectious or communicable disease present at a client facility, we must advise our Support/Care worker prior to the shift and give them the option of accepting the shift under these circumstances (those with young children/families may be hesitant to be exposed to any risk)
- o For Support/Care workers working at these facilities, a Universal Precautions and any other relevant fact sheet are made available to the candidate

### **Support/Care workers**

- o Support/Care workers working in facilities known to have infectious or communicable diseases must follow the protocol set by the facility. Any concerns over this protocol should be addressed with the Charge Nurse or Geneva consultant.
- o Where a Support/Care worker is advised by the Client of the presence of an infectious or communicable disease, the Support/Care worker must advise their Geneva Consultant of this status.

### **Universal Precautions**

Universal Precautions are intended to limit the risk of health care workers contracting or spreading infectious and communicable diseases.

Geneva recommends that blood and body fluid precautions be consistently used for all patients, regardless of their health status. This is referred to as "Universal Precautions". Under Universal Precautions, blood and certain body fluids of all patients are considered potentially infectious.