What is a Spit Guard

• A material Guard designed to reduce the inherent risks caused by a subject that spits.

• It does this by creating a physical barrier around the head of the subject.

• Only the clear/translucent guards are authorised for use.
Justification for use

• Subject is spitting
• Threatening to spit
• Honest held belief they will spit if opportunity arises
• Contagious Infection – honest held belief subject will try to infect staff by spitting
• A verbal warning should be given to subject prior to applying – if practicable
Benefits

• Simple to place over subject's head - avoiding struggle
• Fits around neck loosely
• Clear air passage
• Difficult for restrained subject to remove
• Protects from unnecessary risk of infectious disease
• Does not affect hearing, breathing or vision
• Can be used on subject standing, sitting or prone
• Compact
• Disposable
Considerations

• Constantly Supervise and Monitor
  (During Escort to Custody, if unable to maintain Constant supervision, spit guard must be removed.)

• Signs of distress

• Positional asphyxia

• Proportionate, Reasonable and Necessary

• Consider removing Glasses / necklaces / earrings & other jewellery

• Perception – remove from public view asap
Considerations cont...

• Does **NOT** prevent biting / headbutt
• Cannot be used if subject is bleeding profusely from mouth or nose
• Must be replaced with dry guard if it becomes wet from bodily or other fluids
• Must be removed if subject vomits
• Once used to be disposed of as biohazard
• Previous PNC/Intel markers indicating historic spits is not a reason to automatically apply a guard
Correct Application

- Fully restrain subject first (Handcuffed to the Rear, ERB, Fast Strap)
- Place the Guard over the head, starting from the back
- Avoid contact with eyes, nose and mouth
- Removal – as with application, back to front to avoid injury and to keep any potential contaminant within.
Remember

• Dispose of used Guards as a biohazard

• All uses of a Guard are a use of force and must be recorded and accounted for as such on a Use of Force Form and Custody Record.

• DO NOT use as a punishment or as compliance tool
It should be borne in mind that the use of a contamination Spit Guard is exceptional and must be justified.

The use of the NDM will demonstrate the rationale of the person applying or instructing its use.

Thank you
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