

Norfolk & Suffolk Personal Safety Teams

SPIT GUARDS

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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 it's use.

Thank you

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