

# Health center pays for precautions against AIDS

By Mary Nell Westbrook  
Staff Reporter

The cost of using rubber gloves to protect University Health Center nurses and doctors from the AIDS virus could double to \$8,000 this year, health center officials said.

Last winter, health center administrators anticipated the National Center for Disease Control's guidelines urging increased use of gloves. The guidelines, released last week, further define the precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of infectious diseases such as acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

The health center presented a request to the Committee for Fees Allocations for more money for the purchase of rubber gloves last February, said Gerald Fleischli, medical director of the health center.

"The use of rubber gloves has increased ten-fold," he said.

The new guidelines say appropriate precautions should be taken when "contact with the blood or any other body fluids is anticipated."

The health center uses about five cases of gloves each month, said Sara Bindrum, medical supply clerk. The cost ranges from \$5 to \$15 a

box of 100 gloves, she said, and they're getting harder to find because demand for them is up.

"You can find the \$15 boxes easily," she said. Last year the health center spent about \$4,000 on gloves. Bindrum said she expects that to double this year.

Even dental clinics are using gloves now, so the manufacturers' costs are bound to go up, Bindrum said.

The health center will make up these costs by slightly raising the cost of each procedure, she said.

added precautions, Fleischli said he hopes students will do the same.

"Students aren't aware that this (AIDS) could get to them here in Lincoln, Nebraska, on campus," he said. "We need to hammer this into students over and over."

Harlan Heald, president of the Nebraska Hospitals Association, said the health care community has been concerned about communicable diseases for years and most health care facilities already are following these new guidelines.

"Now the government is finally waking up to do something that people in health care have been doing for the past few years," he said.

"The big scare and the precautions stemming from that occurred for us (health care workers) two years ago," Heald said.

Hospitals, nursing homes and dentists are taking the precautions outlined in the new CDC guidelines, he said.

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—Dr. Gerald Fleischli

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Last year the health center spent about \$4,000 on gloves. Bindrum said she expects that to double this year.

"The students shouldn't even notice the increase," she said.

The health center is looking for less expensive gloves, said Kunle Ojikutu, health center administrator.

Because the health center is taking these

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