

CO 2.220 - FINGERNAIL POLICY

I. **POLICY**

Only natural nails are acceptable for health care employees having direct patient contact. Nail polish is acceptable if it is not chipped or cracked.

II. **PURPOSE**

To prevent the risk of infection to patients from potential pathogens on the hands and nails of healthcare workers in compliance with the recommendations from Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

III. **SCOPE**

All BMC hospital-based health care employees having direct patient contact.

IV. **DEFINITIONS**

A. Artificial nails

Devices, applied or added to augment or enhance the wearer's own nails. They include, but are not limited to, bonding, tips, wrappings, tapes and nail jewelry.

B. Natural nails

Those growing from the individual

V. **PROCEDURE**

A. All healthcare employees within the scope of the policy shall keep nails short, rounded and well manicured.

B. All healthcare employees within the scope of the policy shall **not** wear artificial nails, as described in the definition.

VI. **AUTHORS**

Artificial Nails Taskforce

Approved:		
	Patient Care Policy Committee	2/23/04
	Medical Staff Executive Committee	9/01
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