

## **Module 12**

### **Spit Hood**

Section 1:	Introduction
Section 2:	Application of Spit Hood
Section 3:	Removal of Spit Hood
Section 4:	Use of Force Form

#### **Aim:**

To provide students with training in the application of spit hoods.

#### **Learning Outcome:**

Officers/staff will be able to demonstrate the correct use of spit hoods.

### **Section 1 - Introduction**

The spit hood is a personal issue, single use hood to be placed over the head of any subject who presents a significant risk to officers/staff in relation to spitting or biting. The hood is supplied in a sealed plastic packet and comes in one size, designed to fit most people.

The hood is neutral in colour and is made of nylon mesh, with a plastic reinforced panel at the front. When worn, it allows the subject to see and breathe almost normally. The hood material does not react with the chemicals within irritant spray.

Where a subject has been sprayed with irritant spray, attempts should be made to decontaminate them prior to application of the hood. Where full decontamination is not possible, the subject should be monitored closely and the hood removed at the earliest opportunity.

### **Section 2 - Application of the Spit Hood**

The spit hood is applied at the discretion of the officers/staff involved in an incident. These officers/staff must be able to justify not only the initial application of the hood, but its continued use throughout an incident.

Officers/staff must have control of the subject prior to utilising the hood. The subject should ideally be handcuffed to the rear. Where possible, a safe approach should be adopted whilst the hood is placed over the head of the subject from the rear.

When the spit hood is applied, the plastic panel must be positioned over the nose/mouth area of the subject. The hood should thereafter hang loose around the neck. Attempts should not be made to tie the two ends together.

Officers/staff should take cognisance of any medical or mental health issues which may affect the subject.

Where such conditions are known or suspected to exist, officers/staff must carry out a further risk assessment to confirm that the requirement to wear the hood overrides any additional risk posed to the wellbeing of the subject.

The subject must remain under constant physical supervision at all times whilst the spit hood is worn, and if at any time it is suspected that the subject's health is being adversely affected by the hood, or that the subject has lost consciousness, then the hood must immediately be removed and First Aid protocols observed.

### **Section 3 - Hood Removal**

When removing the spit hood, a safe approach from the rear should be adopted. Officers/staff should wear disposable gloves and once removed, hoods should be disposed of in a clinical waste bin.

### **Section 4 - Use of Force Form**

A Use of Force Form must be submitted after the use of a spit hood.