Infection Prevention and Control Annual Education

Isolation Precautions 2014

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Objectives

After you complete this Computer-Based Learning (CBL) module, you should be able to:

– Describe Standard Precautions designed to prevent transmission of blood borne pathogens.

– Describe procedures involved in these Transmission-Based Precautions (categories of isolation):
  • Contact,
  • Droplet, and
  • Airborne.
Standard Precautions

• GMC uses **Standard Precautions** for every contact involving a:
  – Patient  – Visitor
  – Resident  – Associate
  – Volunteer

• Treat all blood and body fluids as if they are potentially infectious.

• If you think you might be exposed to blood or body fluids, put on appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) **before** caring for the patient.

• Standard Precautions includes the use of hand hygiene **and** appropriate PPE before caring for any patient if you anticipate any exposure to blood or body fluids.
Standard Precautions

Personal Protective Equipment

• Wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) whenever you anticipate contact with blood or body fluids.
  – For example, wear gloves when drawing blood.
• Don appropriate PPE before beginning the task or entering the patient’s room.
• Remove PPE and perform hand hygiene before moving on to the next patient or task.
Empiric Precautions

• Apply isolation precautions before a clear diagnosis.

• Because it is not possible to immediately identify all patients needing specific precautions, certain clinical conditions call for the practical application of isolation precautions while waiting for a more clear diagnosis.
Empiric Precautions, continued

- **Examples include:**
  - An incontinent or diapered patient with acute diarrhea with a likely infectious cause.
  - Open and draining wounds with no dressing or drainage not contained by a dressing.
  - Cough/fever/upper lobe pulmonary infiltrate in any patient.
- Enter an **order into HEO** for each patient placed in isolation.
Transmission-Based Precautions

• Use **Transmission-based Precautions** when a patient requires more than **Standard Precautions**.

• Follow the instructions on the isolation sign on the patient door.
  – The sign lists specific requirements for each precaution.

• Transmission-based categories include:
  – Contact,
  – Droplet, and
  – Airborne.
Contact Precautions

**Standard Precautions, plus...**

- Gowns and gloves for direct contact with patient or patient’s environment.
- Use dedicated equipment or clean equipment *thoroughly* between patients.
- Environmental Services cleans room with emphasis on high-touch items.
  - Environmental Services uses bleach to clean all *C. difficile* rooms.
Contact Precautions, continued

• Use **Contact Precautions** when caring for patients with:
  – Multi-drug resistant organisms (MDROs),
  – Draining wounds,
  – Scabies, or
  – Viral pathogens.

• Examples of MDROs include:
  – MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus)
  – VRE (Vancomycin resistant Enterococcus faecalis or faecium)

• **All** healthcare workers involved in the care of patients on **Contact Precautions** must **wear gowns and gloves** for **direct contact** with the **patient** or the **patient’s environment**.
Transporting Patients

• Before leaving a Contact Isolation room:
  – Ensure that the patient’s wounds or lesions are covered.
  – Dress the patient in a clean hospital gown.
  – The transporter and patient **both** must perform hand hygiene immediately prior to leaving the room.

• The transporter does not wear a gown, gloves or mask in the hallway when transporting patients on **Contact Isolation Precautions**.

• The transporting unit and the transporter must notify the receiving department of the impending arrival of the patient.
Droplet Precautions

• Start empiric (practical) application of **Droplet Precautions** in the following situations:
  
  – Influenza
  – Mumps
  – *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*
  – Pertussis (whooping cough)
  – Rubella (German measles)
  – Suspected bacterial meningitis
Transmission-Based Precautions – Droplet Precautions

Droplet Precautions, continued

• Droplets are particles of respiratory secretions larger than 5 micrometers.
  – They do not remain suspended in the air for extended periods.
  – They can be transmitted within 3-6 feet from the source patient.
Transmission-Based Precautions – Droplet Precautions

Droplet Precautions, continued

• You do **not** have to use special air handling systems and higher level respirator masks to care for patients with diseases capable of droplet transmission.

• The doors of **Droplet Precaution** rooms may remain open, **unlike with Airborne Precautions**.

• **Everyone** entering these rooms **must** wear a surgical mask.
Transmission-Based Precautions – Droplet Precautions

Transporting Patients

• The patient must wear a surgical mask during transport.
• If needed, escort the patient while he or she is transported to procedure areas to ensure that the patient does not remove his or her mask during transport.
• The transporter does not wear a gown, gloves or mask in the hallway when transporting these patients.
  – The transporting unit and the transporter must notify the receiving department of the precautions necessary to reduce the risk of transmission of infectious microorganisms.
Airborne Precautions

- Airborne nuclei particles are **smaller than 5 micrometers** that can remain suspended in air for an extended time to create exposure risk for individuals who are susceptible.
- Patients on **Airborne Isolation Precautions** require an AIIR or negative air pressure room.
  - The AIIR must be a private room with negative air pressure and a minimum of 6-12 air changes per hour.
  - The door to AIIR isolation rooms must remain closed, except for entering and exiting the rooms.
  - When notified by nursing the Engineering Department does daily checks on all AIIR currently in use.
    - Negative pressure log books are kept on the unit.
- Everyone entering these rooms must wear an N95 respirator mask.
Airborne Precautions, continued

• Start empiric (practical) application of Airborne Precautions in the following situations:
  – Suspected or confirmed TB
  – Measles
  – Chickenpox or disseminated zoster, per MD’s diagnosis
  – Smallpox
Transporting Patients

- The patient must wear a surgical mask during transport.
- If needed, escort the patient while he or she is being transported to procedure areas to ensure that the patient does not remove his or her mask during transport.
- The transporter does not wear a gown, gloves or mask in the hallway when transporting patients on Airborne Isolation Precautions.
- The transporting unit and the transporter must notify the receiving department of the precautions necessary to reduce the risk of transmission of infectious microorganisms.
Congratulations!

• You have completed this CBL module.
• Click on Take Test to continue.
• Questions?
  – Contact Infection Prevention and Control
  – Ext. 24695.