

## Contact Precautions

### Key Points

#### Notes on Transmission Based Precautions

**Transmission Based Precautions** are designed for patients who are known (or suspected) to be infected or colonised with highly transmissible or epidemiologically important pathogens. For these cases further measures are needed in addition to standard precautions to prevent transmission of infection. The three categories of transmission - based precautions are Contact, Droplet and Airborne. They may be combined for diseases that have multiple routes of transmission. Whether used singularly or in combination, they are always used **IN ADDITION** to Standard Precautions.

Refer to Isolation Guidelines to identify those precautions which are required for specific organisms or infections.

**In addition to Standard Precautions, use Contact Precautions, for patients known (or suspected) to be infected or colonised with epidemiologically important micro organisms that can be transmitted by Direct contact; i.e., contact which occurs when performing patient-care activities that require touching the patients skin; or Indirect Contact i.e., touching potentially contaminated environmental surfaces or equipment in the patients environment.**

### Guidance

#### 1. Patient Placement

- Timely investigation and institution of control measures
- Assessment of infection rates with time

#### 2. Door / Bed Signs

- An Isolation notice should be displayed on the room door.
- Advise all members of the healthcare team (e.g., therapists, domestic assistants, porters, ambulance personnel) of the required precautions.

### 3. Masks

- Masks are not normally indicated, for specific advice contact the Infection Prevention and Control Nurse.

### 4. Plastic Aprons

- In addition to Standard Precautions, wear a disposable plastic apron if you anticipate direct contact with the patient or with environmental surfaces or equipment in the patient's room.
- Aprons are also recommended if the patient is incontinent, has diarrhoea, an ileostomy or colostomy, or wound drainage not contained by a dressing.

### 5. Gloves

- Wear clean non-sterile gloves when entering the room.
- Change gloves between dirty and clean tasks.
- Remove gloves before leaving the patient's room and decontaminate hands immediately.

### 6. Hands

- Hands should be decontaminated before and after patient contact, following removal of gloves and before leaving the room.
- Use soap and water.
- Hand sanitising agent may only be used on socially clean hands.

### 7. Visits to Other Departments

- Limit movement of patient from the room to essential purposes only.
- If transfer/movement is necessary notify the receiving Department in advance, so that appropriate arrangements can be made to prevent the spread of infection.

### 8. Cutlery / Crockery

- Separate or disposable cutlery or crockery is not indicated. Wash in dishwasher in usual way.