

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Goal: To create a safe and healthy environment for our patients and staff by minimizing the risk of infection.

Standard precautions are used to prevent transmission of infectious agents. Standard Precautions are a group of infection practices that apply to all patients regardless of suspected or confirmed infection status when health care is delivered. Standard precautions are based on the principle that all blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions, may contain transmissible infectious agents.

Personal Protective Equipment:

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) refers to specialized clothing or equipment worn for protection and as a barrier against infectious materials or any potential infectious disease exposure. PPE protects the caregiver's skin, hands, face, respiratory tract, and clothing from exposure. Examples of PPE include: gloves, gowns, face masks, eye protections if there is the potential for exposure to blood or body fluids of any patient. The selection of PPE is determined by the expected amount of exposure to the infectious materials, durability of the PPE, and suitability of the PPE for the task.

Hand Hygiene

Alcohol based hand sanitizers are the most effective products for reducing the number of germs on the hands of health care providers. Antiseptic soaps and detergents are the next most effective and non –antimicrobial soaps are the least effective. When hands are not visibly dirty, alcohol based hand sanitizers are the preferred method for hand hygiene.

Hand hygiene should be performed at a minimum:

- Before contact with a patient;
- Before performing an aseptic task (e.g., insertion of IV, preparing an injection, performing wound care);
- After contact with the patient or objects in the immediate vicinity of the patient;
- After contact with blood, body fluids or contaminated surfaces;
- Moving from a contaminated-body site to a clean body site during patient care; and
- After removal of personal protective equipment (PPE);

[Type here]

Medication Administration

Safe infection practices for medication administration include but are not limited to:

- Use aseptic technique when preparing and administering medications;
- Do not reuse needles, lancets, or syringes for more than one use on one patient, Use single-dose vials for parenteral medications whenever possible;
- Do not administer medications from a single-dose vial or ampule to multiple patients;
- Use fluid infusion and administration sets (i.e. intravenous bags, tubing and connectors) for one patient only and dispose appropriately after use;
- Consider a syringe or needle/cannula contaminated once it has been used to enter or connect to patient's intravenous infusion bag or administration set;
- Enter medication containers with a new needle and a new syringe even when obtaining additional doses for the same patient;
- Insulin pens must be dedicated for a single patient and never shared even if the needle is changed;
- Appropriate sharps disposal.

Equipment Maintenance

Cleaning and disinfecting of reusable medical equipment is essential. Reusable medical equipment (e.g., blood glucose meters and other devices such as, blood pressure cuffs, oximeter probes) must be cleaned/disinfected prior to use on another patient and when soiled:

- Maintain separation between clean and soiled equipment to prevent cross contamination;
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for use and cleaning;
- Follow current standards of practice for patient care equipment transport, storage, cleaning, and disinfecting.

For more detail in regards to infection control and prevention, please refer to the Interim HealthCare Policy and Procedure Manual. Please contact your Interim Healthcare supervisor with any questions.

My signature below indicates that I have read and understand the information provided.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____