

PROCEDURE NO.: SC.013

SUBJECT: Isolation Precautions for Blood Collections

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Approved By/Title: _____

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Annual Review: _____

Purpose:

Patients placed in Transmission Based Precautions are those suspected of being infected with epidemiologically important pathogens. In order to provide a safe environment and prevent transmission of microorganisms, the patient placed in isolation, and other hospital patients and health care workers must closely adhere to isolation procedures when coming in contact with these patients.

Universal or Standard Precautions should always be used in addition to isolation or transmission based precautions.

Responsibility:

For All Healthcare Workers.

Principles:

There are three isolation categories:

1. Respiratory (Droplet)
2. Airborne
3. Contact

Respiratory (Droplet): Microorganisms generated from source person during coughing, sneezing, or talking and during certain procedures such as suctioning and bronchoscopy. Transmission occurs when the droplets generated are propelled short distances through the air and deposited on the host's nasal mucosa or conjunctiva.

Airborne: Transmission occurs by dissemination of airborne droplet nuclei which contain microorganisms that remain suspended in the air for long periods of time, or from dust particles containing the infectious agent.

Contact: Is the most important and most frequent mode of transmission of nosocomial infections and is divided into two groups: direct and indirect.

Direct contact involves body surface to body surface contact and physical transfer of microorganisms between a susceptible host and a colonized person (ex: turning or bathing a patient).

Indirect contact occurs when there is contact with a susceptible host and with a contaminated object or contaminated hands (ex: not washing hands after patient contact or not changing gloves between patients).

Procedure:

A. Respiratory (Droplet) Isolation

- Invasive Haemophilis influenza type b disease including meningitis, pneumonia, epiglottitis, and sepsis
- Invasive Neisseria meningitides disease including meningitis, pneumonia and sepsis
- Other serious bacterial respiratory infections: Diphtheria, Mycoplasma pneumonia, Pertussis, Pneumonic Plague, Streptococcal pneumonia, pharyngitis or scarlet fever.
- Serious viral infections: Adenovirus, Influenza, Mumps, Parvovirus B19, Rubella
- Methicillin Resistant Staph Aureus (MRSA) infection/colonization in respiratory tract (newly diagnosed and those with positive sputum and nasal cultures)

1. Masks

- a. Standard surgical mask with eye protection required.

2. Gowns

Gowns indicated if soiling from infected area likely, and during all dressing changes.

3. Gloves

Gloves indicated for all dressing changes, contact with infected areas, drainage or articles contaminated with drainage.

4. Wash

Hands must be washed before and after direct patient care, after contact with contaminated articles, after removing gloves and before taking care of another patient.

5. Room

- a. Private room required.
- b. Door should be kept closed at all times.

6. Special Requirements:

- a. Articles contaminated with respiratory secretions, discard in “RED” trash bag, including all suctioning equipment, blood collecting equipment such as; tourniquet and adapter, sharps in puncture resistant container.
- b. Reusables: place instruments, etc. in plastic bag and place in CSR bin in dirty utility room.
- c. Dishes / Linen - no special precautions.
- d. Specimens - place in plastic bag and label.
- e. Transporting patients: Patient must wear a mask. If unable to tolerate, provide disposable tissues and bag, and instruct to cover all coughs and sneezes; transporter should wear a mask.

B. Airborne Isolation

- Active or suspected Tuberculosis (TB)
- Chickenpox (Varicella)
- Measles (Rubeola)

1. Masks

- a. Tight fitting, N95 Mask or Powered Air Purifying Respirator (PAPR) required when entering room.
- b. Eye protection needed only for procedures that may generate splash or spray.

2. Gowns

Gowns indicated if soiling from infected area likely, and during all dressing changes.

3. Gloves

Gloves are required for measles and chicken pox isolation. Otherwise gowns are indicated for all dressing changes, contact with infected areas, drainage or articles contaminated with drainage.

4. Wash

Hands must be washed before and after direct patient care, after contact with contaminated articles, after removing gloves and before taking care of another patient.

5. Room
 - a. Private, negative air pressure room required.
 - b. Door must be kept closed at all times.
6. Special Requirements:
 - a. Articles contaminated with respiratory secretions, discard in “RED” trash bag, including all suctioning equipment, blood collecting equipment such as; tourniquet and adapter, sharps in puncture resistant container.
 - b. Reusables: place instruments, etc. in plastic bag and place in CSR bin in dirty utility room.
 - c. Dishes / Linen - no special precautions.
 - d. Specimens - place in plastic bag and label.
 - e. Transporting patients: Patient must wear a surgical mask. If unable to tolerate, provide disposable tissues and bag, and instruct to cover all coughs and sneezes; transporter should wear a N95 surgical mask.

C. Contact Isolation

- ☐ Methicillin Resistant Staph Aureus (MRSA)
- ☐ Vancomycin Resistant Enterococcus (VRE)
- ☐ Gastrointestinal, respiratory, skin or wound infections of special clinical and epidemiological significance
- ☐ Enteric infections with low infectious doses or prolonged environment survival including Escherichia coli, Shigella, Hepatitis A, or rotovirus
- ☐ Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), para-influenza virus, or enteroviral infections in infants and children
- ☐ Skin infections that are highly contagious or that may occur on dry skin and include: Diphtheria (cutaneous), Herpes simplex virus, impetigo; major abscesses, cellulitis or decubiti; Pediculosis, Scabies, Staphylococcal infections, Zoster (disseminated or in immunocompromised host)
- ☐ Viral/hemorrhagic conjunctivitis
- ☐ Viral/hemorrhagic infections (Ebola, Lassa, or Marburg)

1. Masks
 - Masks / eye protection needed only for procedures that may generate splash or spray.

2. Gowns - Gowns to be worn by all persons upon entering room at **ALL TIMES.**

3. Gloves - Gloves to be worn by all persons upon entering room at **ALL TIMES.**

4. Wash
Hands must be washed with antimicrobial soap before and after patient contact, after contact with contaminated articles, after removing gloves and before leaving the room.

5. Room
 - a. Private room indicated.

 - b. After thoroughly cleaning the room, remove mophead and cleaning rags and place in laundry bag. Empty cleaning solution (can pour down toilet).

 - c. Remove gown and gloves (discard in red isolation bag).

 - d. Wash hands with antimicrobial soap.

6. Special Requirements:
 - a. Disposable dishes may be used.

 - b. Disposable items (tourniquet, adapter) / dressings - place in red infectious waste trash bag and sharps in puncture resistant container.

 - c. Transporting patients: Cover all draining and open areas. Do not take to waiting rooms. Take directly to exam or treatment areas. Return patient directly to room.

D. Instructional Signs

1. Isolation signs are placed on the patient's door by nursing personnel.

2. All instructions on these signs must be strictly adhered.

3. If there are any questions about entering the room or treating the patient, see the patient's nurse.

E. Personal Protective Equipment

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), includes masks, gowns, gloves, eye protection, or any other equipment or device should be located on a cart by the patient's room.

F. Blood Collection Equipment

1. Any disposable blood collection equipment that enters the isolation room must be discarded appropriately before exiting. This includes, tourniquet, vacutainer adapter, gauze, alcohol swab, needles, syringes, etc.
2. All reusable equipment must remain in the room. (roll of tape, unused extra tubes, etc.)
3. After blood collection has been completed, the blood is labeled and put into a plastic bio-bag. Upon exiting the room the specimens are to be put into another bio-bag and sealed.
4. Gowns, gloves and masks are removed and hands are washed prior to exiting the room.
5. Specimens are then ready for transport to lab.

References:

1. Nicholson, M., "Procedures and Requirements for Transmission-Based Isolation Precautions", The Christ Hospital, 9/30/97.
2. The Jewish Hospital, "Isolation Guidelines".
3. Infection Control Department, "Standard Precautions / Transmission Based Precautions - An Overview", The University Hospital.
4. Infection Control Department, "Implementation of Isolation for Standard Precautions/ Transmission Based Precautions", The University Hospital.
5. Isolation Precaution Cards.