Isolation Guidelines

VCU Health System
Department of Epidemiology
Goal of Isolation

• Prevent transmission of microorganisms from infected or colonized patients to other patients, hospital visitors, and healthcare workers
Types of Isolation Precautions

**Transmission-based Precautions**
- for patients with documented or suspected infections
- 3 Types:
  - airborne, droplet and contact

**Standard Precautions**
- Apply to all Patients
  -- Replace Universal Precautions
Standard Precautions

• Used for *all* patients
• Must wear gloves when touching:
  • Blood
  • All body fluids
  • Nonintact skin
  • Mucous membranes
• Wash hands immediately after glove removal and between patients
Standard Precautions

- **Masks, eye protection, face shield:**
  - Wear during activities likely to generate splashes or sprays

- **Gowns**
  - Protect skin and soiling of clothing
  - Wear during activities likely to generate splashes or sprays

- **Sharps**
  - Avoid recapping of needles
  - Avoid removing needles from syringes by hand
  - Place used sharps in puncture-resistant containers
Airborne Precautions

- Designed to prevent airborne transmission of droplet nuclei or dust particles containing infectious agents
- For patient with documented or suspected:
  - Measles
  - Tuberculosis (primary or laryngeal)
  - Varicella (airborne + contact)
  - Zoster (disseminated or immunocompromised patient; airborne and contact)
  - SARS (Contact+airborne)
Airborne Precautions

• Room:
  • Negative pressure
  • Private
  • Door kept closed

• Mask
  • Orange ‘duckbill’ mask required to enter room
Empiric Use of Airborne Isolation

- Vesicular rash *(airborne+contact)*
- Maculopapular rash with coryza and fever
- Cough + fever + upper lobe pulmonary infiltrate
- Cough + fever + any infiltrate + HIV infection
Droplet Precautions

• Designed to prevent droplet (larger particle) transmission of infectious agents when the patient talks, coughs, or sneezes

• For documented or suspected:
  • Adenovirus (*droplet+contact*)
  • Group A strept pharyngitis, pneumonia, scarlet fever (in infants, young children)
  • H. *Influenza* meningitis, epiglottitis
  • Influenza, Mumps, Rubella
  • Meningococcal infections
Empiric Use of Droplet Precautions

- Meningitis
- Petechial/ecchymotic rash and fever
- Paroxysmal or severe persistent cough during periods of pertussis activity
Contact Precautions

- Used to prevent transmission of epidemiologically important organisms from an infected or colonized patient through direct (touching patient) or indirect (touching surfaces or objects in the patient’s environment) contact
Contact Precautions

• For suspected or documented:
  • Adenovirus (*contact+droplet*)
  • Infectious diarrhea in diapered/incontinent patients
  • Group A strep wound infections
  • MDR bacteria (MRSA,VRE)
  • Viral conjunctivitis
  • Lice, scabies
  • RSV infection
  • Varicella (*Contact+airborne*)
  • Zoster (disseminated or immunocompromised; *contact+ airbrone*)
  • SARS (*Contact+airborne*)
Empiric Contact Precautions

- Acute diarrhea of likely infectious etiology, patient diapered/incontinent
- Diarrhea in an adult with recent antibiotic use
- Vesicular rash (contact+airborne)
- History of infection or colonization with MDR organisms
- Respiratory infections in infants/young children
- Skin, wound, urinary tract infection in a patient with recent hospital or nursing home stay where MDR organisms are prevalent
- Abscess or draining wound that cannot be covered
Handwashing
Phlebotomy Safety Devices

BD Safety-Lok butterfly - product information and usage

Phlebotomy Safety Devices

BD Eclipse: for information and usage instructions
**Needlestick or Blood/Body Fluid Exposure**

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<td>Call Employee Health</td>
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<td>Page PEP team beeper#4508</td>
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