

Isolation – Initiating Transmission-Based Precautions

Policy Statement

Transmission-Based Precautions are initiated when a resident develops signs and symptoms of a transmissible infection; arrives for admission with symptoms of an infection; or has a laboratory confirmed infection; and is at risk of transmitting the infection to other residents.

Transmission-Based Precautions may include Contact Precautions, Droplet Precautions, or Airborne Precautions.

The facility makes every effort to use the least restrictive approach to managing individuals with potentially communicable infections. Transmission-Based Precautions are used only when the spread of infection cannot be reasonably prevented by less restrictive measures.

Policy Interpretation and Implementation

1. If a resident is suspected of, or identified as, having a communicable infectious disease, the Charge Nurse or Nursing Supervisor notifies the Infection Preventionist and the resident's Attending Physician for evaluation of appropriate Transmission-Based Precautions.
 - a. If the Attending Physician or his/her alternate fails to respond appropriately to notification of a suspected or confirmed communicable infectious disease, the staff informs the Medical Director and Administrator.
 - b. In the event the Attending Physician fails to take appropriate action, the Infection Preventionist or Medical Director has the authority to implement appropriate Transmission-Based Precautions.
2. Transmission-based precautions are utilized when a resident meets the criteria for a transmissible infection AND the resident has risk factors that increase the likelihood of transmission. These may include (but are not limited to):
 - a. Uncontained excretions/secretions;
 - b. Non-compliance with standard precautions; or
 - c. Cognitive deficits that restrict or interfere with the resident's ability to maintain precautions.
3. When Transmission-Based Precautions are implemented, the Infection Preventionist (or designee):
 - a. Clearly identifies the type of precautions, the anticipated duration, and the personal protective equipment (PPE) that must be used;
 - b. Explains to the resident (or representative) the reason(s) for the precautions;
 - c. Provides and/or oversees the education of the resident, representative and/or visitors regarding the precautions and use of PPE;
 - d. Determines the appropriate notification on the room entrance door and on the front of the resident's chart so that personnel and visitors are aware of the need for and type of precautions:
 - (1) The signage informs the staff of the type of CDC precaution(s), instructions for use of PPE, and/or instructions to see a nurse before entering the room.
 - (2) Signs and notifications comply with the resident's right to confidentiality or privacy.
 - e. Ensures that protective equipment (i.e., gloves, gowns, masks, etc.) is maintained outside the resident's room so that anyone entering the room can apply the appropriate equipment; Outside the room is often preferable, but inside may be also be considered based on analysis by the infection preventionist.
 - f. Ensures that protective equipment and supplies needed to maintain precautions during care are in the resident's room; and
 - g. Ensures that an appropriate linen barrel/hamper and waste container, with appropriate liner, are placed in or near the resident's room.

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4. Transmission-Based Precautions remain in effect until the Attending Physician or Infection Preventionist discontinues them, which occurs after criteria for discontinuation are met.
 - a. In an emergency (for example, an outbreak), the Infection Preventionist, Administrator and/or Medical Director have the administrative authority, accountability, and responsibility to: Implement measures to control or prevent infections within the facility;
 - b. Notify the health department of reportable diseases, as appropriate;
 - c. Initiate transmission-based (isolation) precautions;
 - d. Obtain laboratory specimens;
 - e. Restrict or ban admissions; and
 - f. Restrict or temporarily discontinue visitation.

5. Attending physicians are involved in decisions related to infection control for the residents under their care.

References	
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