

Application of Transmission-Based Precautions

Date Revised: ____/____/____

Date Effective: ____/____/____

Authorization: _____

Committee

Define the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Practice

Transmission-Based Precautions are a group of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) practices that are used in addition to Standard Precautions for residents who may be infected or colonized with infectious agents that require additional control measures to effectively prevent transmission. There are three categories of Transmission-Based Precautions:

- Contact Precautions: Intended to prevent transmission of infectious agents that are spread by direct or indirect contact with the resident or the resident's environment. Staff caring for residents on Contact Precautions should wear a gown and gloves for all interactions that may involve contact with the resident or potentially contaminated areas in the resident's environment.
- Droplet Precautions: Intended to prevent transmission of pathogens spread through close respiratory or mucous membrane contact with respiratory secretions. Staff caring for residents on Droplet Precautions should wear a facemask for close contact with the resident. Consider adding goggles or a face shield to protect eyes from exposure to respiratory droplets, especially when caring for residents with significant cough or respiratory secretions.
- Airborne Precautions: Intended to prevent transmission of infectious agents contained in particles that remain suspended in air and can be infectious over long distances. Staff caring for residents on Airborne Precautions should wear a fit-test National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)-approved N95 or higher level respirator.

Purpose (provides background to explain the rationale for the policy/procedure)

Transmission-Based Precautions are used for residents who are known or suspected to be infected or colonized with infectious agents, which require additional control measures to effectively prevent transmission. Transmission-Based Precautions are used when the route(s) of transmission is (are) not completely interrupted using Standard Precautions alone.

Responsibility (defines who is responsible for following this policy/procedure)

For the purpose of this policy, staff will be used to refer to all staff who have contact with residents and/or their environments, including, but not limited to Registered Nurses (RN), Nurse Practitioners (NP), Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN), Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA), Physicians (MD/DO), Physician Assistants (PA), Respiratory Therapists (RT), Rehabilitation Therapists (e.g., Physical or Occupational Therapy), External Consultants (e.g., Pharmacy Services, Laboratory Services, Wound Care Services, Podiatrists), Case Management, Environmental Services, Dietary Services, paramedics, and students and volunteers.

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Policy Content Considerations

1. Prompt recognition of the need for and implementation of Transmission-Based Precautions, including:
 - a. Nurse-driven protocols that allow staff to implement Transmission-Based Precautions without a physician order.
2. Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) selection, use, and disposal.
3. Resident placement considerations (single-person room or roommate), including resident cohorting decisions and strategies to minimize transmission among residents in shared rooms.
4. Resident movement and participation in community/group activities (e.g., dining).
5. Communication about Transmission-Based Precautions.
 - a. Educating resident, staff, and family.
 - b. Room entry signage indicating what type of Transmission-Based Precautions and appropriate PPE to be used.
 - c. Documentation in the care plan.
 - d. Inter-facility transfer communication.
6. Managing visitor interactions.
7. Accessibility and availability of PPE supplies (e.g., on the PPE supply cart outside the room) and resident care equipment.
 - a. Dedicated resident care equipment.
 - b. Proper cleaning and disinfection of shared resident equipment.
8. Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions.

Procedure Content Considerations (outline the steps/supplies to perform the practice)

- 1) Identifies appropriate PPE for the type of Transmission-Based Precaution implemented.
- 2) When and how PPE should be donned and doffed (removed).

An example of the steps for safe donning and doffing (removal) of PPE:

<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/ppe/PPE-Sequence.pdf>.

Guidelines, Standards, and Resources for Policy/Procedure Development

Transmission-Based Precautions policies and procedures should be developed using evidence-based guidelines or national standards, such as resources from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Please refer to the following resources for developing Transmission-Based Precautions policies and procedures for your facility:

- 2007 CDC Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings:
<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/isolation/index.html>.
- 2006 CDC Guideline for Management of Multidrug-Resistant Organisms in Healthcare Settings: <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/mdro/index.html>.
- OSHA standards on Personal Protective Equipment and Respiratory Protection:
 - o <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/healthcarefacilities/standards.html>.
 - o <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/personalprotectiveequipment/index.html>.
 - o <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/respiratoryprotection/index.html>.