

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES
ADMITTING A PATIENT REQUIRING IMMEDIATE PLACEMENT OF
TRANSMISSION BASED PRECAUTIONS**

Effective Date: March 2004
Cross Referenced:
Reviewed Date: 9/10, 5/13
Revised Date: 5/13

Policy No: IC014
Origin: Infection Control
Authority: Administrative Director
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SCOPE:

Employees, LIP's, Administrative Coordinators of Hackettstown Regional Medical Center.

PURPOSE:

To prevent the transmission of communicable diseases between the time the patient enters the hospital and is placed in an appropriate room on isolation precautions.

DEFINITIONS:

1. **Cohorting:** The practice of placing patients with the same infection or colonization together to confine their care and prevent contact with other patients and the potential to spread infections.
2. **Colonization:** The presence of bacteria on a body surface (skin, nares, mouth, intestines or airway) without causing disease
3. **Infection:** Invasion and multiplication of microorganisms in body tissues, especially that causing local cellular injury due to competitive metabolism, toxins, intracellular replication, or antigen-antibody response.
4. **Multi-drug Resistant Organism (MDRO):** MDROs are defined as microorganisms – predominantly bacteria – that are resistant to one or more classes of antimicrobial agents.
5. **Standard Precautions:** include a group of infection prevention practices that apply to all patients, regardless of suspected or confirmed infection status, in any setting in which healthcare is delivered. These include: hand hygiene; use of gloves, gown, mask, eye protection, or face shield, depending on the anticipated exposure; and safe injection practices.
6. **Transmission Bases Precautions:** Transmission-Based Precautions are used when the route(s) of transmission is (are) not completely interrupted using Standard Precautions alone. Categories of Transmission-Based Precautions: Contact Precautions, Contact Enteric Precautions, Droplet Precautions, and Airborne Precautions.

PROCEDURE:

1. If a communicable disease is suspected or confirmed at the time of admission appropriate transmission based precautions need to be immediately implemented in the Emergency Department.
2. If the patient is flagged in the EMR as having a history of a MDRO, or communicable process the patient must be placed on appropriate transmission based precautions immediately. Policy #IC003
3. Information regarding known status of infections/colonizations of communicable processes can be found in the EMR Problems and Diagnosis and in the PM conversation/Infection Control and Consults.
4. Admitting physician shall notify the Admitting Office of the specific disease/infection

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so the proper room placement can be selected and appropriate transmission based precautions can be provided.

5. Admitting personnel will communicate the need for transmission based precautions to the receiving nursing unit.
6. Refer to Cohorting of Patients on Precautions policy # IC012 for room placement.
7. The patient is to be brought directly to the nursing unit when he/she is assigned a room.

8. If a patient with a communicable disease requiring isolation presents to Admitting, the receptionist will call a transporter STAT to take the patient by way of the closest route to the assigned room. If necessary, Environmental Services will be notified to disinfect the Admitting Office waiting area.

Related Policies:

Transmission Based Isolation Precautions #IC003

Personal Protection Equipment #IC008

Hand Hygiene #IC001

Cohorting of patients on Precautions #IC0012

REFERENCES:

- Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Healthcare Settings 2007. Siegel J, Rhinehart E, Jackson M, Chiarello L, and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, June 2007. http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/gl_isolation.html
- Management of multidrug-resistant organisms in healthcare settings, 2006. Siegel J, Rhinehart E, Jackson M, Chiarello L, and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, December 2006. <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/pdf/ar/mdroGuideline2006.pdf>