

HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
Administrative Policy and Procedure

SECTION: ADMINISTRATION

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TITLE: STANDARD PRECAUTIONS

PURPOSE:

.The goal of preventing the transmission of infections in hospitals can be accomplished by following the “CDC Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing transmission of infectious agents in healthcare setting, 2007” that have been revised to meet the following objectives:

1. To be epidemiologically sound.
2. To recognize the importance of all body fluids, secretions, and excretions in the transmission of health care associated pathogens.
3. To contain adequate precautions for infections transmitted by the airborne, droplet, and contact routes of transmission.
4. To be as simple and user friendly as possible.
5. To use new terms to avoid confusion with existing infection control and isolation systems.

PROCEDURE:

1. The most recent guideline contains two tiers of precautions. In the first, and most important tier are those precautions designed for the care of all patients in hospitals regardless of their diagnosis or presumed infection status. Implementation of these “**Standard Precautions**” is the primary strategy for successful health care associated infection control and are designed to reduce the risk of transmission of microorganisms from both recognized and unrecognized sources of infection in hospitals.
 - a. Standard Precautions apply to:
 - (1) Blood
 - (2) All body fluids, secretions, and excretions except sweat, regardless of whether or not they contain visible blood
 - (3) Non-intact skin
 - (4) Mucous membranes
 - b. Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette
 - c. Safe Injection Practices
 - d. Use of masks for insertion of catheters or injection of material into spinal of edidural spaces.

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While most elements of Standard Precautions evolved from Universal Precautions that were developed for protection of HCW, these new elements of Standard Precautions focus on protection of the patient.

2. In the second tier are precautions designed only for the care of specified patients. The additional “**Transmission-based Precautions**” are used for patients known or suspected to be infected or colonized with epidemiologically important organisms that can be transmitted by airborne or droplet transmission or by contact with dry skin or contaminated surfaces.

Transmission-Based Precautions are designed for patients documented or suspected to be infected or colonized with highly transmissible or epidemiologically important pathogens for which additional precautions beyond Standard Precautions are needed to interrupt transmission in hospitals. There are three types of Transmission-Based Precautions: **Airborne Infection Isolation, Droplet Precautions and Contact Precautions**. They may be combined for diseases that have multiple routes of transmission. When used either singularly or in combination, they are to be used in addition to Standard Precautions.

Additional information on Standard Precautions and Transmission-based Precautions can be found in the Infection Control/Isolation Manual located in all patient care areas.