

NORTHERN NEVADA ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: INPATIENT TRANSMISSION-BASED PRECAUTIONS

NUMBER: NN-IC-21

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ORIGINAL DATE: 11/19/09

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I. PURPOSE

To minimize the spread of disease to staff and consumers by implementing the appropriate transmission-based precautions.

II. POLICY

To follow and practice Transmission-Based Precautions in order to prevent the transmission of pathogens.

III. DEFINITIONS

1. Contact Precautions - a procedure intended to prevent the transmission of infectious agents by direct or indirect contact with the consumer or the consumer's environment.
2. Droplet Precautions – a method intended to prevent the transmission of pathogens spread through close respiratory or mucus membrane contact with respiratory secretions.

3. Airborne Precautions – a method intended to prevent the transmission of infectious agents that remain infectious over long distances when suspended in the air.
4. PPE- Personal Protective Equipment is utilized by clinical staff when the potential for contact with blood or body fluids and or pathogens is expected. The equipment includes disposable gowns, gloves, masks, goggles and face shields. PPE equipment is available at every inpatient unit nursing station.

#### IV. REFERENCE

CDC Guidelines for Isolation Precautions 2007

Policy NN-IC-07 Standard Precautions

CDC Guidelines for preventing the transmission of Mycobacterium Tuberculosis in Health-Care settings, 2005

#### V. PROCEDURE

- A. This facility is not designed to accommodate extreme infectious risks. Isolation rooms or negative flow rooms are not available. It is the physician's responsibility to determine if the consumer's needs can be met while protecting other consumers and staff from exposure to the infectious agent. If necessary the consumer will be transported to a medical facility until they reach a medical condition that allows treatment at this facility.
- B. It is the responsibility of the physicians and staff to minimize the risk to other consumers by encouraging the infected consumer to remain in their room while they are contagious. If the consumer is resistant, the physician will evaluate the consumer's capacity to comply with remaining in their room and strategies aimed to decrease infectious

contact with other consumers while outside of their private rooms.

This must be documented in the chart.

### C. Contact Precautions

1. A sign stating "Contact Precautions" shall be posted outside the room so all staff are aware of this level of precaution.
2. Contact precautions apply to consumers with wound drainage, fecal incontinence or other discharges from the body that suggests an increased potential for extensive environmental contamination and risk of transmission.
3. These consumers will be placed in a single consumer room. If that is impossible, they will be roomed with another consumer with the same pathogen. There must be at least a > 3 feet spatial separation between the beds.
4. Change protective attire and perform hand hygiene between contacts with consumers in the same room.
5. Healthcare personnel caring for these consumers should wear a disposable gown and gloves for all interactions that may involve contact with the consumer or potentially contaminated areas in the consumer's room.
6. PPE should be put on before entering the room and discarded before exiting the consumer's room. Be sure that skin and clothing do not touch contaminated or potentially contaminated environmental surfaces that could result in the transfer of infective agents to other consumers or environmental surfaces.
7. The staff member must sanitize their hands after exiting the room, but before touching anything outside the room.
8. If possible, all consumer care equipment should be disposable. If possible, the equipment should be left in the room. If not possible, a safe mechanism must be established to keep the

equipment from contaminating the clean environment outside the consumer's room.

9. Consumer's rooms requiring contact precautions shall be cleaned daily. Priority shall be given to all frequently touched surfaces and equipment.

#### D. Droplet Precautions

1. A sign shall be posted outside the room stating "Droplet Precautions" so all staff are aware of this level of precaution.
2. Droplet precautions apply to pathogens that may be spread through close respiratory or mucus membrane contact with respiratory secretions. The agents are B. pertussis, influenza virus, adenovirus, rhinovirus, N. meningitides, and group A streptococcus (for the first 24 hours of antimicrobial therapy).
3. These consumers will be placed in a single room. If that is impossible, they will be roomed with another consumer with the same pathogen. There must be at least a > 3 feet spatial separation between the beds.
4. Change protective attire and perform hand hygiene between contacts with consumers in the same room.
5. Staff will wear a mask when entering the room. If they will be touching anything, they will also wear gloves.
6. PPE will be disposed of prior to leaving the consumer's room.
7. The staff member must sanitize his hands after exiting the room, and before touching anything outside the room.
8. If the consumer must leave their room they should wear a mask and follow Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette.
  - a. Respiratory Hygiene/Cough etiquette:
    - The consumer should wear a mask.

- If they cannot wear a mask they should cough or sneeze into a tissue, their elbow or clothing, not their hands. Tissues should be disposed of in the trash.
- They should wash or use hand sanitizer often.

#### E. Airborne Precautions

1. This facility has no negative flow rooms. If a pathogen is expected, which requires these precautions the consumer should be transferred to a facility with negative flow rooms as soon as possible. The pathogens in this category are rubeola virus (measles), varicella virus (chickenpox), Mycobacterium. Tuberculosis and SARS.
2. Until transfer, the consumer will be placed in a single room. They will be masked. If available, the staff will wear N95 masks that have been appropriately fit tested when they enter the room. If N95 respirators are unavailable, they will wear surgical masks when in the room.
3. PPE will be disposed of appropriately. Hand hygiene will be performed appropriately when staff leaves the consumer's room.