

NORTHERN NEVADA ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: OUTPATIENT TRANSMISSION-BASED PRECAUTIONS

NUMBER: NN-IC-05

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ORIGINAL DATE: 3/15/12

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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.

II. DEFINITIONS

The three methods of disease transmission are:

- Contact Transmission: When one person touches another or surfaces previously touched by another, germ transmission can occur.
- Droplet transmission: Microorganisms from someone coughing or sneezing are transferred to another person's mucus membrane (eyes, nose, or mouth).

- Airborne transmission: Smaller particles of microorganism (also generally from coughing or sneezing) are carried by air currents to another's mucous membranes (eyes, nose or mouth).

### III. REFERENCES

- CDC: Transmission-Based Precautions (BICPP-HICPAC) 2011
- CDC Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of Mycobacterium Tuberculosis in Health-care settings, 2005

### IV. PROCEDURE

1. Identifying Potentially Infectious Inpatients or Outpatients
  - A. NNAMHS staff will be continually alert for any inpatient or outpatient arriving with symptoms of an active infection (e.g., rash, respiratory symptoms, draining wounds, or skin lesions).
  - B. In non-emergent outpatient situations, staff will attempt to reschedule them, either at arrival or on the phone.
  - C. If the outpatient arrives and needs immediate attention the staff will recommend they wear a mask and try to isolate them from other individuals in the waiting area.
  - D. If the consumer presents to POU or PAS for admission, a determination will be made by the medical staff as to our ability to meet the consumer's needs as well as maintain the safety of our staff and consumers. There are no rooms at this facility to maintain an inpatient that requires "Isolation Contact Precautions" or "Airborne Precautions". We have no rooms with sinks, anterooms, or negative airflow. If the medical physician determines the consumer needs to be placed on one of these precautions they will need to be sent back to the hospital that sent them until these extra precautions are no longer required.

2. Contact Precautions: A method intended to prevent the transmission of infectious agents by direct or indirect contact with the consumer or the consumer's environment
  - A. Apply to any consumer with any of the following conditions and or disease.
    - 1) Presence of stool incontinence (may include consumers with Norovirus, rotavirus, or Clostridium difficile); draining wounds, uncontrollable secretions, pressure ulcers or ostomy tubes and or bags draining body fluids.
    - 2) Presence of generalized rash or exanthemas.
  - B. If the consumer is an outpatient escort him into an office where these conditions can be maintained with safety. If the consumer is an inpatient they should have been evaluated by medical staff before their admission. If this was not done, escort them to their room immediately until medical staff can evaluate him.
  - C. Perform hand hygiene before touching the consumer and putting on gloves.
  - D. Use of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment).
    - 1) Wear gloves when touching the consumer and the consumer's immediate environment or belongings.
    - 2) Wear a gown if substantial contact with the consumer or their immediate environment is anticipated.
  - E. Perform hand hygiene after removal of the PPE. If hands are visibly soiled, be sure to use soap and water.
  - F. Clean the room where the consumer has been when they leave prior to allowing anyone else to use that space. Housekeeping can be contacted to appropriately clean the room.
  - G. Be sure that the bathroom is cleaned after being used by a consumer with known or suspected infectious diarrhea. Housekeeping can be contacted for appropriate cleaning. When housekeeping is not available, nursing staff

will be responsible for cleaning and disinfecting. If *C. difficile* is suspected a fresh (24 hours old or less) 10% bleach solution must be used to clean the bathroom.

3. Droplet Precautions: A method intended to prevent the transmission of pathogens spread through close respiratory or mucus membrane contact with respiratory secretions.
  - A. Apply to consumers known or suspected to be infected with a pathogen that can be transmitted by the droplet route. These include but are not limited to:
    - 1) Respiratory viruses (e.g. influenza, para-influenza virus, adenovirus, respiratory syncytial virus, and human metapneumovirus)
    - 2) Bordetella pertussis
    - 3) For the first 24 hours of antibiotic treatment: *Neisseria meningitidis* and Group A streptococcus
  - B. Place the outpatient or inpatient in a room with a closed door as soon as possible. If this is not possible, the consumer should be provided with a facemask and placed in a separate area as far from other consumers as possible.
  - C. PPE use:
    - 1) Wear a facemask, such as a procedure or surgical mask, for close contact with the inpatient or outpatient. The facemask should be put on before entering the room.
    - 2) If substantial spraying of respiratory fluids is anticipated, gloves, gown and a face shield or goggles should be worn.
  - D. Perform hand hygiene and wear gloves before and after touching the consumer. Hand hygiene will be performed after contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects/materials. Be sure to use soap and water if your hands are visibly dirty.

- E. Instruct the inpatient or outpatient to wear the facemask when exiting the room and to avoid close contact with other consumers. Ask the consumer to practice respiratory hygiene etiquette when coughing or sneezing.
  - F. Clean and disinfect the room accordingly. Housekeeping can be contacted to perform this function. The nursing staff is responsible for cleaning inpatient areas when the housekeeping staff is unavailable. Do not place any new consumers in these rooms until they are cleaned.
4. Airborne Precautions
- A. These precautions apply to consumers known or suspected to be infected with a pathogen that can be transmitted by airborne route. These include but are not limited to:
    - 1) Tuberculosis
    - 2) Measles
    - 3) Chickenpox (until lesions are crusted over)
    - 4) Localized (in immunocompromised consumer) or disseminated herpes zoster (until lesions are crusted over).
  - B. These consumers should not be allowed in any building at this facility. We have no negative flow rooms to put them in. Notify your supervisor immediately if you suspect the consumer has one of these diseases. These consumers should not be accepted for inpatient admission. If they arrive for admission they will be COBRA'd for appropriate medical intervention.
    - 1) While staff is caring for the consumer they should wear PPE at all times as well as being sure the consumer keeps his facemask in place. Dispose of masks in biohazard trash while wearing your own PPE. Limit face-to-face contact time as much as possible while still maintaining consumer safety.
    - 2) Transport arrangements for medical care should be expedited for inpatients and outpatients. If the outpatient knows they have

measles, chickenpox or herpes zoster they should leave immediately and return when they are no longer contagious.

C. PPE use

1) Staff should wear a fit tested N-95 respirator. Wear a facemask if no respirator is available and you must be in the room with the consumer.

2) Gloves, gown and a face-shield should be worn along with the mask if there is a copious amount of sputum.

D. Perform hand hygiene and wear gloves before touching the consumer.

Also, perform hand hygiene after contact with respiratory secretions and/or body fluids and contaminated objects/materials. Use soap and water if your hands are visibly dirty.

E. Instruct the consumer to wear a facemask when exiting the facility and to avoid contact with other consumers. Notify any medical personnel that may transport or receive this patient of the suspected disease. Remind the consumer to practice respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette.

1) Once the consumer leaves the room it should be left vacant for 1 hour. Then the room should be cleaned.