

Ambulatory Theme of the Month: Infection Prevention & Control

Review the following IPC topics with your teams this month

Topic 1: Standard precautions

- [Standard Precautions](#) is applied in ALL direct patient care encounters
- Standard precautions include:
 - Hand hygiene
 - Selecting and wearing appropriate PPE based on care provided and the risk of exposure to you!
 - Disinfecting environment and patient care equipment/devices

Topic 2: Transmission-based precautions

- There are certain pathogens that require a higher level of protection to keep you safe!
- Standard precautions+ means using your judgment for any additional protective measures based on your exposure risk.

For example: a patient has a fever, rash, and cough

- You don't know if the rash is from a virus that is airborne transmitted or related to an illness that is also contributing to the cough.
- You want to avoid direct contact with the rash while also protecting your mucous membranes and/or if airborne precautions are necessary for providing direct patient care.

- Transmission-based precautions includes standard precautions +:
 - [Airborne](#) – respirators (N95 or PAPR)
 - Most ambulatory clinics are not equipped with negative pressure rooms
 - Keep door closed and room vacant to allow for air exchanges when the patient leaves (1 hour*)
 - [Droplet](#) – eye protection and mask (protect your mucous membranes – eyes, mouth, nose)
 - [Contact](#) – gown and gloves (washing your hands with soap and water when caring for patients with diarrhea)
 - **Enteric*** – is included in Contact precautions for Ambulatory
- Find additional guidance on [Isolation Table | UCSF Health Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Prevention \(ucsfmedicalcenter.org\)](#)

Topic 3: Caring for patients with [possible organisms of interest](#)

- **Identify** – Determine possible or current novel organism(s)
 - [Monkeypox Information](#)
 - [COVID-19 Information](#)
- **Isolate** - Place patient in private room or separate enclosed area and only have essential personnel provide direct patient care, as needed
- **Inform** – Contact Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Prevention (HEIP) for questions and guidance on isolation precautions or flags and notify clinic leadership
 - HEIP Adult On-Call Voalte: 628-248-9059
 - HEIP Pediatric On-call Voalte: 628-248-8503

Staff Reflection: When do I need to implement standard precautions vs. transmission-based precautions? What is my department/clinic's workflow for handling a suspected infectious patient **before, during,** and **after** their visit? What are indications a person may be infectious? (Answers can be found on ambulatory isolation signages)

Activity: As a team, perform a simulated scenario and evaluate what worked, didn't work, and ways to improve for a seamless workflow. Time is of the essence to minimize the risk of exposure!

Upcoming Events:

Sterile Processing Week
October 9 – 15

To our colleagues in Sterile Processing Department that are 'instrumental' to patient safety and quality, thank you for all you do!

International
Infection Prevention Week
October 16 – 22

In honor of our colleagues in Infection Prevention and Control who continue to work tirelessly to keep us and our patients safe!

Education Highlights:

Have you considered professional development in infection prevention & control?

Become board certified as an Associate in Infection Prevention & Control earning the designation "a-IPC"

[Click here for more info on a-IPC certification](#)

Become your clinic's
infection prevention champion!
(Email ACRT@ucsf.edu)

Pertinent Policies:

- [Standard Precautions and Transmission-Based Isolation](#)
- [Mandatory Infection Prevention Education](#)
- [Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Response, Prevention & Control Plan](#)
- [Hand Hygiene Policy](#)
- [Agents Available For Disinfection and Antisepsis](#)
- [Ambulatory Practices & Hospitality Services \(Service Level Agreement\)](#)

Useful Websites:

- [Infection Control - Main Website](#)
- [N95 Respirator Fit Testing](#)
- [OneSource Docs - Manufacturer IFUs](#)

Ambulatory Clinical
Resource Team

Website:
[Ambulatory Website](#)

Email:
ACRT@ucsf.edu

Stay tuned for additional IPC topics throughout the month