

Site Applicability

BC Children's Hospital and BC Women's Hospital. Excludes Sunny Hill at Slocan Street site

Purpose

This document identifies the standards for the delivery of meals to patients with isolation precautions at BC Children's Hospital and BC Women's Hospital.

Policy Statements

Prior to entering an isolation precaution room, staff members/contractors must don personal protection equipment (PPE) as indicated on the signage.

Food Service staff will not don PPE to deliver meals, thereby limiting their ability to deliver meals to isolation precaution rooms.

Pass-throughs will not be used to deliver meals but can be used to pick up soiled trays.

Meal Delivery Procedure

**A. All Additional Precautions (Droplet, Contact, Contact Plus, Droplet And Contact)
EXCEPT AIRBORNE**

PROCEDURE	Rationale
1. Food Services will first go to the patient's room.	
2. The Food Services employee is permitted to stand at the threshold of the room and pass to a nurse wearing PPE. If a nurse is not available in the room, the Food Service worker will take the meal to the team care station and alert the unit clerk. The unit clerk will alert the nurse. The nurse will bring the meal into the patient room using appropriate PPE.	Pass-throughs will not be used to deliver meals. Steam from meals may introduce risk. Food Services workers must not don PPE and enter patient rooms; this introduces risk and would be time consuming, resulting in delays in all meal delivery, and would require costly contract changes. For infections spread by droplet or contact, there is minimal risk of transmission by standing at a threshold.

B. To Airborne Isolation Precautions

PROCEDURE	Rationale
1. Food Services will first go to the patient's room. If nursing is available, the meal will be handed off to nursing.	
2. If nursing is not there, or is unable to take the tray, the meal will be taken to the team care station, and the unit clerk will notify nursing.	Food Services workers must not don PPE and enter patient rooms; this introduces risk. Donning and doffing PPE is time consuming, resulting in delays in all meal delivery, and would require costly contract changes.
3. Food Services cannot stand in the anteroom and open the door (at the threshold of the room) to pass a meal tray to someone inside.	Opening the door between the room and the anteroom without PPE introduces risk of exposure to infection for Food Services workers.

Meal Pickup Procedure

A. All Isolation Precautions (Droplet, Contact, Contact Plus, Droplet And Contact) EXCEPT AIRBORNE

PROCEDURE	Rationale
1. Family or nursing will place tray in the pass-through, if the pass-through is unlocked per IPAC standards; alternately the tray may be placed in the soiled utility room or other pickup spot designated by the clinical area.	Pass-throughs are unlocked for patients on contact or droplet precautions.
2. Food Services will pick up from the pass-through and the soiled utility room or other designated pickup location.	<p>Food Services will not enter Isolation Precaution rooms to pick up trays in an effort to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of people coming in contact with the isolation patient; • Reduce the risk to the Food Services workers; and • Reduce the risk of spreading an illness. <p>Food Services workers must not don PPE and enter patient rooms, this introduces risk. Donning and doffing PPE is time consuming, resulting in delays in all meal delivery, and would require costly contract changes.</p>

B. Airborne Isolation Precautions

PROCEDURE	Rationale
1. Family or nursing will place tray in the soiled utility room or other pickup spot designated by the clinical area.	Pass-throughs are locked for airborne isolation precautions.
2. Food Services will pick up from the soiled utility room or other designated pickup location.	<p>Food Services will not enter Isolation Precaution rooms to pick up trays in an effort to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of people coming in contact with the isolation patient; • Reduce the risk to the Food Services workers; and • Reduce the risk of spreading an illness. <p>Food Services workers must not don PPE and enter patient rooms, this introduces risk. Donning and doffing PPE is time consuming, resulting in delays in all meal delivery, and would require costly contract changes.</p>

Documentation

Not applicable.

References

Not applicable.

VERSION HISTORY

DATE	DOCUMENT NUMBER and TITLE	ACTION TAKEN
18-Mar-2020	C-0506-12-60566 Isolation Precaution Rooms: Delivery and Pick Up of Meals	Approved by Professional Practice Director (interim approval during COVID19 pandemic)

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