

IC.03.01 PRINCIPLES OF ROUTINE PRACTICES - REV. DECEMBER 2016

Routine practices and Additional Precautions are implemented to reduce the risk of transmission of microorganisms and prevent health care-associated infections in the health care setting.

Routine Practices are applied to all patients, at all times and in all health care settings. It is based on the premise that all individuals may harbour potentially infectious agents, whether they are symptomatic or not. Routine Practices should be applied with all patients and patient environments to prevent exposure to blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions, mucous membranes, non-intact skin and to prevent the spread of microorganisms. Routine Practices may also be referred to as Standard Precautions.

The consistent and appropriate use of Routine Practices in the health care setting will help prevent the transmission of microorganisms:

- From health care workers (HCW) to patient
- From patient to patient
- From patient to HCW
- From HCW to HCW

Routine Practices include:

- Frequent and thorough hand hygiene following the 4 moments.
- Point-of-care risk assessment of the patient, the type of care provided and the setting in which it is provided.
- Application of risk reduction strategies:
 - Sufficient and easily accessible personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - Environmental and equipment cleaning
 - Patient room supplies that cannot be cleaned and disinfected should be discarded following all discharges or sent with patients who are transferred. Supplies that can be cleaned and disinfected must be wiped down with a hospital-grade disinfectant.
 - Minimize supplies in patient rooms to avoid excess waste and cost.
 - Safe handling of linen and soiled wastes
 - Safe handling of sharps
 - Patient placement and bed spacing
 - Respiratory etiquette
 - Healthy workplace practices
- Education of HCW, patients, their families and visitors

REFERENCES

1. Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). Routine Practices and Additional Precautions for Preventing the Transmission of Infection in Health Care Settings. 2012.
http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2013/aspc-phac/HP40-83-2013-eng.pdf
2. Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC). Routine Practices and Additional Precautions in All Health Care settings. Public Health Ontario; November, 2012.
http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/RPAP_All_HealthCare_Settings_Eng2012.pdf

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