



Policy No: JSD/HS/13	Authorised by: Davina Powell	Review Date: 24th October 2023
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ISOLATION PROCEDURE		

Policy Statement

The Code of Practice for health and social care on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance issued in July 2015, Criterion 7- 7.4 states that Agencies are not expected to have dedicated isolation facilities for individuals but are expected to implement isolation precautions when an individual is suspected or known to have a transmissible infection

The aim is to prevent the spread of infection from person to person by isolation, i.e. to block the route of spread of infection and confine the organism.

There are five main routes of transmission:

- **Contact** - the most common route of transmission of infection is via direct (hands) or indirect (instruments or equipment) contact.
- **Respiratory** - infection is spread via respiratory secretions generated by coughing & sneezing.
- **Airborne** - micro-organisms are transferred by droplet nuclei (minute particles) or by dust particles. Air currents will carry these particles and disperse them in the environment
- **Food or waterborne** - some infections can be transmitted via the ingestion of contaminated food or water resulting in gastro-intestinal symptoms.
- **Vector-borne** - diseases can be transmitted by vectors such as lice, mosquitoes and tick

The Policy

Once a communicable infection is suspected the GP must be notified who is required notify the local Health Protection Agency of a communicable disease.

Isolation procedures are put in place as soon as possible and if required advice should be sought from the local Health Protection Agency

Signage is used on doors to prevent people entering by mistake.

Staff are aware that isolation procedures are used and that they understand their responsibilities.

Correct hand washing is an essential and SJD Homes' hand washing procedure must be followed.

Protective Personal Equipment (PPE)

Apron

A disposable plastic apron should only be used once and then discarded to avoid cross-infection.

Gloves

Disposable gloves (not sterile) must be worn by all persons having contact with body fluids or dealing with excreta. Remember correct hand washing procedure even when using gloves.

Crockery and Cutlery

Hot wash cycle is sufficient.

Equipment

To be left in Individual's room, Including laundry skip and clinical waste bin. On discharge, Hypochlorite, detergent solution 1.2% to be used for wiping down all surfaces including mattress, bed and equipment.

Needles and Syringes

To be disposed of in Sharps box provided in the Individuals room.

Excreta

Gloves and plastic apron to be worn. Bed pans, commode pots and urinals to be covered during transport. Between using bed pan, commode pot, urinal should be wiped with 1% hypochlorite solution.

Dressings

To be placed in a yellow sealed bag in the room prior to incineration.

Linen

Linen from Individuals with low risk infection to be placed in coloured washable soiled linen bag. Linen from Individuals with high risk infection to be placed in coloured dissolvable bag or alginate stitched bag and outer nylon bag.

Hand Hygiene

Wash hands immediately after examining the individual and before leaving the room, even if you have worn gloves. Following effective hand washing procedures.

On leaving the room

- discard disposable clothing correctly in yellow clinical bags
- remove gowns, gloves & masks before leaving the room
- wash your hands
- close the door after leaving

All furniture, fittings and surfaces to be cleaned with 1.10 hypochlorite solution.

Visitors are required to wash their hands when entering and leaving the isolation room or bay by using either the alcohol gel or liquid soap, running water and disposable towel or driers provided.

It is important that visitors do not sit on the bed as this can also be a cause of cross infection.

When visitors are required to take further precautions they must be informed before entering the room and given the necessary instructions before leaving the room

Further guidance

Prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections: Quality improvement guide NICE guidelines [PH36] Published date: November 2011

Related policies

Communicable Infections Management
Infection Control
Notifications
Waste management

Training Statement

Isolation procedures are incorporated into Infection Control training at induction. When required staff are updated on procedures and any specific requirements.