

Infection control and isolation precautions

Patient information

Service: Infection Control Team

Divison: Intergrated Medical and Rehabilitation Services

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Incorporating hospital and community health services, teaching and research



Infection control and isolation precautions

This leaflet provides information about infection control and isolation precautions used at this hospital.

In order to reduce the risk of infection all health care staff practice standard infection control precautions which consists of:

- wearing gloves and aprons when performing any care which involves body fluids such as blood
- disposing of used sharps and needles in rigid sharps container
- washing hands after patient care

In some cases patients may require some additional infection control precautions to stop the infection from spreading. This may be in a single room or in the ward bay.

Isolation and barrier nursing

- Isolation nursing is carried out by placing the patient in a single room or side room.
- Barrier nursing, this occurs when a patient(s) is kept in a bay and extra precautions are implemented to prevent spread of the germ.

Why do we need to isolate/barrier nurse?

- To reduce the risk of spreading certain infections or antibiotic resistant germs to other patients and staff.
- To protect patients from infection if they have a weak immune system due to disease or taking certain drugs.

It may be necessary occasionally to move a patient to another ward. This may arise either because there are no single rooms available on their own ward or in order to ensure they receive specialist care. The Infection Prevention and Control team are available to assist the ward nurses to assess where patients will be nursed. The nursing care that you receive will be the same whether you are in a side room or on the main ward.

Protective Clothing

- Staff will wear protective clothing for example gloves, apron and mask (if required) in order to reduce the risk of passing the infection / germ to other patients.
- The type of clothing that staff wear will depend upon what type of care they are carrying out and how the infection is spread.
- If the infection is likely to be spread by breathing in the germs that are causing the infection then staff will wear masks.
- It is very unlikely that visitors will need to wear any protective clothing such as apron or gloves. If they do then nursing staff will advise.

Visitors

Visitors **must check** with the nurse in charge before entering the room. In general it is not advisable for babies or visitors who are sick to visit as they are at risk of picking up or passing on an infection themselves.

Visitors need to clean their hands when entering and leaving the isolation room or bay by using either the alcohol gel or soap and water provided. The method used will depend upon why the patient is in isolation. Please check with the nurse in charge whether alcohol gel or soap and water is required.

It is important that visitors do not sit on the bed as this can also transfer germs.

Can I leave my bed area or room?

Patients in isolation should not wander around the ward area as this may pass on the germ to other patients. However, this does depend upon what infection they have and how the germs are passed on.

Patients will be asked to keep the door to the isolation room closed. Please discuss any concerns about this with the nursing staff.

Treatment that is needed in other departments will be received in most cases, unless deemed not urgent when it will be arranged for a later date. Staff in any other department visited (for example Xray) will be informed about the infection so that they can take relevant precautions.

When is isolation/ barrier nursing stopped?

This will depend upon the reason for isolation. It can be anything from a few days to the whole hospital stay.

Any concerns?

Please speak to the nurses on the ward if you have any questions or concerns. It may also be helpful to write down any questions in the space below.

The Infection Prevention and Control Team are available to discuss any issues relating to isolation or barrier nursing please ask the nurse in charge.

The Infection Prevention and Control Nurses are available, **Monday to Friday: 9.00am to 5.00pm.**
Telephone 0208 510 7557

Further information is available from:

- **NHS Choices:** www.nhs.uk
- **Patient UK:** www.patient.co.uk

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS can help to sort out any concerns or queries you may have about the hospital or community services. The service is available Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm on telephone 0208 510 7315/7728.

The Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Infection control team would like to acknowledge the University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust Infection control leaflet which has been used to produce this document.

Homerton University Hospital

NHS Foundation Trust

If you need help to understand this leaflet in your language, please telephone the Advocacy Service on 020 8510 7179.

Turkish

Bu broşürün Türkçe olarak size açıklanmasını istiyorsanız, lütfen 020 8510 7179 numaraya telefon edip Danışmanlık ve Çeviri Servisimizle (Advocacy Service) iletişim kurun.

Bengali

আপনার নিজের ভাষায় এই প্ৰচারণাটী বোঝার ব্যাপারে আপনার যদি সাহায্য দরকার হয়, তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে অ্যাডভোকেসি সার্ভিসকে 020 8510 7179 নম্বরে টেলিফোন করুন।

-Urdu

اگر آپ کو اس ایف ایف ایف کا پڑھنا ہے تو براہ کرم ایف ایف ایف کو 0208 510 7179 پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔

Spanish

Si necesita ayuda en su idioma para poder entender este folleto, le rogamos llame al teléfono del Servicio de Arbitraje (Advocacy Service) al 020 85107179

Gujarati

જો તમને આ પત્રિકા તમારી ભાષામાં સમજવા માટેની મદદ જોઈતી હોય તો, મહેરબાની કરીને એડવોકેસી સર્વિસને 020 8510 7179 પર ફોન કરશો

Vietnamese

Nếu quý vị cần giúp đỡ để hiểu tờ thông tin này bằng ngôn ngữ của quý vị, xin điện thoại Dịch vụ Biện hộ số 020 8510 7179.

Chinese

如果你需要别人以中文解释这份小册子的内容，请致电代言谘询服务，电话 020 8510 7179。

Hebrew

ניתן להתקשר לשירות התמיכה בטלפון 020 8510 7179, אם יש להבנת עלון זה בשפתך. צורך בסייע

Polish

Jeżeli potrzebujesz pomocy w zrozumieniu niniejszej ulotki oraz jej przekładzie na swój język ojczysty, prosimy zadzwoń do Advocacy Service pod numer 020 8510 7179.

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