Non-Hospital Medical and Surgical Facilities Accreditation Program

Routine Practices and Additional Precautions

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Routine practices are based on the premise that all patients are potentially infectious, even when asymptomatic, and that the same standards of practice should be used routinely with all patients to prevent exposure to blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions, mucous membranes, non-intact skin or soiled items, and to prevent the spread of microorganisms. Additional precautions are "transmission-based" precautions (e.g. contact, droplet or airborne) used in addition to



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RPAP1.3.3

There is policy and procedures for management of patients known to have or considered high risk of being colonized or infected with antibiotic-resistant organisms (AROs).

Guidance: The policy and procedures outline point-of-care risk assessments and strategies to control, reduce and prevent AROs (e.g. methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), carbapenemase-producing organisms (CPOs)). Patients that require additional (transmission-based) precautions should be accommodated in a single room (e.g. office, exam room) and signage specific to the type of additional precautions necessary should be posted at the entrance to this room. Equipment must be dedicated to the patient whenever possible and additional cleaning measures may be required (i.e. VRE, C. difficile) for the

AROs. Antibiotic-resistant organisms (AROs) are a significant cause of infections in Canadian hospitals and their rate of incidence has increased significantly over the years. Community-acquired ARO strains have also arisen. In Canada, community-acquired methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (CA-MRSA) is most prevalent in the western provinces but is a growing problem throughout the country. This increase in CA-MRSA has implications for facilities that are not planning on performing the admission screening intervention or who only screen patients with Hospital Acquired (HA-MRSA). In Canada, most CPO cases have been identified in individuals who have been hospitalized and/or had a medical procedure done in countries outside of Canada. Safer Healthcare Now! provides a step-by-step guide to assist Canadian health-care facilities implement strategies to control, reduce and prevent AROs using several infection prevention and control interventions including admission screening for colonization or infection, routine practices including an aggressive hand hygiene program, a systematic program for cleaning and decontamination of the environment and equipment, use of contact precautions for any patient that is infected or colonized with an ARO, use of selected AROs screening cultures (depending on your local situation, both inside and outside the facility), and ARO surveillance. Not every patient requires screening cultures to identify those individuals who may be colonized or infected with an ARO. Screening cultures is recommended for high-risk individuals only.



December 5, 2019	New criteria:
	Sequence for donning PPE.
	Sequence for removing PPE.
	Other:
	Substantial format changes and guidance added.

