

## **IC2:0600 Prevention**

### **1.0 PURPOSE**

The purpose of infection prevention is to identify symptoms promptly and implement the appropriate interventions to halt transmission of microorganisms. Prevention is a key component of a successful infection control program.

### **2.0 DEFINITION**

Prevention encompasses activities that aim to halt the spread of pathogens and the infections they cause. The primary prevention procedures are hand hygiene, routine practices and additional precautions.

### **3.0 GUIDELINES**

#### **3.1 Hand Hygiene**

- Hand hygiene is the most important practice for reducing transmission of pathogens that cause infections in the long term care setting. Washing hands thoroughly reduces the risk of infection. See IC5:0200, Hand Hygiene for guidelines and instructions on hand hygiene.

#### **3.2 Routine Practice**

- Routine precautions are designed to prevent transmission of microorganisms. Routine practices require the staff to do a risk assessment based on the activities to be done in order to prevent the spread of microorganisms. See IC5, Routine Precautions for individual guidelines.

#### **3.3 Additional Precautions**

- Additional precautions are followed when residents are known or suspected to be infected with a transmissible organism.

These include:

- Contact Precautions,
- Droplet Precautions,
- Droplet/Contact Precautions
- Airborne Precautions.

See IC6, Transmission Based Precautions, for individual standards.