

## **IC9: 0200 Housekeeping**

### **1.0 STANDARD**

Housekeeping guidelines are based on principles of infection control and are included for general information.

All staff must follow Routine Practices when performing housekeeping functions.

Additional Transmission Based Precautions will be followed, when required, to prevent and control the spread of infectious or communicable microorganisms.

Routine cleaning protocols must be written, followed and monitored to ensure a clean and healthy environment. There is a need to have enhanced cleaning protocols in place to address cleaning needs for residents on transmission based precautions and / or during outbreaks.

A system of communication needs to be place to ensure that cleaning staff are aware of residents requiring Additional Transmission Based Precautions.

### **2.0 DEFINITION:**

Transmission-based precautions are additional precautions based on the mode of transmission of an infectious organism and refer to airborne, droplet and contact modes of transmission.

### **3.0 PROCEDURE:**

#### **3.1 General Infection Control Principles for Housekeeping and Cleaning include:**

- Selection of cleaning products includes a hospital-grade disinfectant. The appropriate product is selected and prepared according to Manufacturers' instructions
- Routine cleaning supplies, such as solutions, mops and cloths should be replaced at a frequency determined by the amount and degree of contamination, and according to facility policy. See below re: transmission based precaution. For outbreaks, see Outbreak Management Protocols
- Physical removal of microorganisms by scrubbing is of equal or greater importance than the antimicrobial effect of the cleaning agent used.
- Clean from the area that is *least* contaminated, to the area that is *most* contaminated (e.g. dry, unsoiled counters first, toilets last).
- Clean from the *top* to the *bottom* of a room or surface.

- Ensure mattresses and pillows of incontinent residents are covered with moisture-resistant plastic to simplify cleaning. If contaminated with body fluids, clean with disinfectant and allow to dry before applying clean sheets.
- Walls, blinds and curtains should be cleaned on scheduled basis and when visibly soiled.
- Carpets should be vacuumed regularly and cleaned if visibly soiled.
- Unexpected spills or soiling should be promptly cleaned. For body substance spills or soiling, see Blood and Body Fluid Spills
- Damp dusting or mopping should be used to decrease airborne dust.
- Containers of cleaning solutions should be emptied and completely rinsed out before being refilled.
- Equipment should be stored clean and dry. Do not store open containers of cleaning solutions in residents' rooms.

### **3.2 Additional Transmission Based Precautions**

- Wear disposable gloves in place of regular gloves
- Wear gowns when there is substantial contact expected with the resident, environmental surfaces in the room, soiled laundry, resident equipment or personal items
- Wear appropriate masks when Droplet or Airborne Precautions are indicated. See Airborne Precautions and Droplet Precautions
- Place anti-microbial soap at the resident's sink and have available a waterless hand antiseptic agent in the resident's room
- Discard soiled linen into hamper, bag or cart at resident's doorway
- Conduct enhanced daily cleaning of hand contact areas, equipment, mobility aids and the bathroom
- Dispose of cleaning cloths in resident room and discard waste water directly after cleaning the resident's room.
- Change the mop head and clean the mop bucket
- Treat garbage in the usual manner.
- Discard disposable gloves and gowns and masks before exiting room and perform hand hygiene.

### **4.0 REFERENCES:**

Health Canada: Infection Control Guidelines; Routine Practices and Additional Precautions For Preventing The Transmission of Infection in Health Care (July, 1999).

Health Canada: Hand Washing, Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization in Health Care, 1998.