

IC6: 0400 Contact Precautions

1.0 STANDARD

All residents known or suspected of a condition that is transmissible by the direct or indirect contact route will be cared for using Contact Precautions in addition to routine practices.

Examples of conditions requiring Contact Precautions include:

- Scabies
- *Clostridium difficile* infection
- Diarrhea if feces not contained

2.0 DEFINITION

Direct Contact transmission occurs when transfer of microorganisms' results from direct physical contact between an infected individual and a susceptible host (body surface to body surface). Examples include soiled hands or gloves.

In-direct Contact involves passive transfer of microorganisms to a susceptible host. Examples include shared equipment and the environment.

3.0 PROCEDURE

Room	A single room is preferred with a private toilet or designated commode. When private room is unavailable, draw curtains around resident.
Door	May remain open.
Signage	Contact Precaution signage at the entrance to the room and at the bed space in a multi-bed room.
Masks/ Eye protection	Follow Routine Practice
Gloves	For all entries into the resident's environment
Long-sleeved Gowns	For direct contact with resident or when contact with the environment is anticipated
Hand Hygiene	Before and after contact with resident and their environment before aseptic procedure, after contact with body fluids

Infection Control Manual – Residential Care

Part 3 – Infection Control Standards

IC6: Infection Control Requirements

Resident Equipment	Dedicate to the resident, or clean and disinfect after use
Resident Transfers	Transport for essential purposes only. Notify receiving health care facility and ambulance service.
Resident Hand Hygiene	Resident should perform hand hygiene and be assisted as necessary before leaving their rooms after toileting and before meals
Resident Activities	Participation in group activities should be avoided while on precautions and per pathogen specific recommendations in Appendix I
Housekeeping	See Environmental Hygiene: Housekeeping, Additional Precautions

Room Set up

Attention will be paid to the role of fomites in transmission. Consideration should be given to provide washable surfaces in the resident's room.

- Horizontal surfaces should be washable (no carpeting if possible)
- Furnishings and coverings should be washable
- Plastic cover on mattress
- Washable blankets, bedspreads, curtains
- Wall surfaces, paint and wallpaper should be washable
- Call bell cords and light pull cords should be made of a smooth washable material

Equipment

Whenever possible, equipment shall be dedicated to the resident's exclusive use such as;

- BP cuff
- Stethoscope
- Thermometer
- **Bedpan, urinal, commode**
- Wheelchair
- Sling for the lifting device (preferably the whole device)
- Transfer belt

Non-dedicated Equipment

Equipment which cannot be dedicated for individual use must be appropriately cleaned and disinfected before being removed from the room and used by another resident.

Supplies

- Avoid overstocking items in resident rooms
- At entrance to the room have the following supplies:
 - Hospital-grade disinfectant wipes (store away from access by the resident)
- Personal Protective Equipment such as disposable gloves and long-sleeved gowns. The following items should be supplied in the resident's room:
 - Dedicated personal care supplies such as periwash, periwipes, mouthwash, shampoo, creams lotions etc.
 - Garbage can with plastic liners
 - Laundry hamper, double bagging is not required
 - Alcohol based hand rub (ABHR) or liquid hand soap and paper towels at the hand washing sink

Waste, Laundry, Dishes and Cutlery:

No special precautions are required; routine practices are sufficient

4.0 Duration of Precautions:

- Contact precautions can be discontinued after signs and symptoms of the infection have resolved or as per the pathogen specific recommendations in Appendix I Precautions Selection Table
- Notify housekeeping to do an isolation terminal/discharge cleaning of the room/bedspace and bathroom prior to discontinuing precautions

5.0 REFERENCES

Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). Routine practices and additional precautions for preventing the transmission of infection in health care settings. 2012

Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC). Routine practices and additional precautions in all health care settings, 3rd edition. 2012