**Enhanced Barrier Precautions Policy and Procedure**

### Enhanced Barrier Precautions Policy

**Policy**

It is the policy of this facility that Enhanced Barrier Precautions, in addition to Standard and Contact Precautions will be implemented during high-contact resident care activities when caring for residents that have an increased risk for acquiring a multidrug-resistant organism (MDRO) such as a resident with wounds, indwelling medical devices or residents with “infection or colonization with an MDRO”1.

**Overview**

Several routes transmit microorganisms in healthcare facilities. Moreover, more than one route may transmit the same microorganism. Enhanced Barrier Precautions is intended for nursing homes to prevent the spread of novel or targeted Multi-Drug Resistant Organism (MDRO)s when residents have an infection or colonization with a MDRO or if the resident has a wound or indwelling medical device, regardless of MDRO infection or colonization. When a resident contracts a MDRO, treatment is many times limited.

Enhanced Barrier Precautions will not only focus on residents with infection or colonization with MDRO’s but will also address residents at risk for developing or becoming colonized. Enhanced Barrier Precautions are precautions that are between Standard Precautions and Contact Precautions. Enhanced Barrier Precautions require gown and glove use for residents with a novel or targeted MDRO or any resident with a wound or indwelling medical device during specific high-contact resident care activities.

Novel or Targeted MDROs include:

* “Pan-resistant organisms
* Carbapenemase-producing carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales,
* Carbapenemase-producing carbapenem-resistant *Pseudomonas* spp.,
* Carbapenemase-producing carbapenem-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii, and*
* *Candida auris”*1

Additional MDROs that are epidemiologically important include:

* “Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA),
* ESBL-producing Enterobacterales,
* Vancomycin-resistant *Enterococci* (VRE),
* Multidrug-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*,
* Drug-resistant *Streptococcus pneumoniae”*

**Purpose**

The purpose of Enhanced Barrier Precautions is to prevent opportunities for transfer of MDROs to employee’s hands and clothing during cares, beyond situations in which staff anticipate exposure to blood or body fluids.

High-Contact Resident Care Activities include1:

* “Dressing
* Bathing/showering
* Transferring
* Providing hygiene
* Changing linens
* Changing briefs or assisting with toileting
* Device care or use: central line, urinary catheter, feeding tube, tracheostomy/ventilator
* Wound care: any skin opening requiring a dressing”1

**Procedure**

1. Standard Precautions should be applied to all residents at all times
2. Transmission-based precautions should be applied to all residents when standard precautions alone do not prevent pathogen transmission
3. Enhanced Barrier Precautions are to be implemented in addition to Standard Precautions when other Transmission-based precautions do not apply, when facility identifies any resident with:
   1. Novel or targeted MDROs
      1. Consider additional epidemiologically important MDRO’s
   2. Wounds or skin openings that require dressings
   3. Any indwelling medical device, for example:
      1. Central lines
      2. Urinary catheters
      3. Feeding tubes
      4. Tracheostomy/ventilator
4. Post clear signage on the door/wall outside resident room
   1. Type of precautions
      1. Contact
      2. Droplet
      3. Airborne
      4. Enhanced Barrier Precautions
   2. Personal Protective equipment is required for all staff providing high-contact resident care activities to include:
      1. Gown and gloves with:
         1. “Dressing
         2. Bathing/showering
         3. Transferring
         4. Providing hygiene
         5. Changing linens
         6. Changing briefs or assisting with toileting
         7. Device care or use: central line, urinary catheter, feeding tube, tracheostomy/ventilator
         8. Wound care: any skin opening requiring a dressing”1
      2. Gown and gloves are not necessary for resident care activities other than those listed above
      3. Resident is not required to be restricted to their room if only on Enhanced Barrier Precautions
      4. Enhanced Barrier Precautions will be in place for the duration of the resident’s stay or until a wound is resolved or the indwelling medical device is discontinued
5. Provide isolation cart with Personal Protective Equipment immediately outside resident room
6. Provide alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) both in and outside resident room
7. Provide a trash receptacle inside the resident room at the exit of the room for discarding of PPE after removal and before exiting room or before providing care to another resident in the same room
8. Communication and education will be provided to all staff caring for or entering resident room for directions
9. Communication and education will be provided to resident representative, family and/or visitors.
10. The Infection Preventionist may consult Public Health when needed for additional decisions regarding practices to prevent the spread of MDROs

**References**

1Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Implementation of Personal Protective Equipment in Nursing Homes to Prevent Spread of Novel or Targeted Multidrug-resistant Organisms (MDROs). Updated: July 12, 2022. <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/containment/PPE-Nursing-Homes-H.pdf>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about Enhanced Barrier Precautions in Nursing Homes. Page last reviewed: July 27, 2022: <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/containment/faqs.html>