

## ISLHD Infection Management and Control Service

# Individual Risk Assessment

## What is it?

It is a Person Focused - People Centred approach to delivering safe healthcare. The aim is to make decisions for infection prevention and control based on an individual assessment of overall risk to the patient.

The aim of determining a patient's individual risk is to ensure appropriate controls are implemented to protect all patients, visitors, and healthcare workers without compromising clinical care and psychological support.

The risks associated with infection transmission can vary between individual patients and different treatment or care settings. While there may be general principles of infection prevention and control, there may not be a one rule for all circumstances every time.

Patients whose immune system isn't working as well as it could eg: cancer patients or intensive care unit patients, are more prone to serious infections and need to have a higher level of precautions in place to protect them from harm. Whereas other patients may not be at as great a risk of infection and do not require the same level of controls.

## How do you do it?

- 1 Identify the location where the patient will be accommodated or treated.
- 2 Identify any individual risk factors that the patient may have that may make them more vulnerable to infection (eg: leukaemia) or a higher risk for spreading the infection (eg: wounds that can't be covered).
- 3 Identify the organism or disease affecting the patient and determine the type of controls recommended to prevent the spread of this organism or disease.
- 4 Once all these factors have been considered, determine the best option to contain the infection and still maintain optimal patient care eg: if the patient is a high falls risk consider accommodating in a shared room with precautions maintained or single room accommodation with an assigned companion or nurse.

The IMACS team can advise on appropriate precaution management to accommodate specific clinical needs for an individual patient.

## How does it benefit our patients?

- Patients are managed as individuals, not as an infection!
- Patient care and treatment is not compromised due to infection control precautions.
- Patient transfers are not delayed due to infection control precautions.

## How does it benefit you?

- You can provide the most effective treatment plan for your patient through individual risk assessment and prioritisation of controls.

## Where to get more information?

[NSW Health Infection Control PD2007\\_036](#)

ISLHD-PD: Infection Prevention and Control Risk Management Framework

