

## ISLHD Infection Management and Control Service

# ISLHD Standard Precautions Model

## What is it?

A range of Infection Control strategies designed to reduce the risk of transmission of micro-organisms from both recognised and unrecognised sources of infection in healthcare settings. Within ISLHD we have expanded this model of care to include the use of aprons for all close patient contact. ISLHD Standard Precautions apply to all patients/clients receiving care regardless of their diagnosis or presumed infection status.

Consistent implementation of standard precautions reduces that risk of healthcare-associated transmission of infection. If we get it right all the time then patients/clients are safer all of the time

*Multi-resistant organism acquisition rates are a good indicator of how well we are complying with standard precautions.*

## How do you do it?

### **DO THE BASICS RIGHT EVERY TIME:**

**Hand Hygiene:** Perform the 5 Moments for Hand Hygiene when providing patient care. Don't forget the other times you should clean your hands eg: before and after going toilet, eating, and smoking, after touching things like – phones, keyboards, medical records, after touching animals

**Bare Below The Elbows:** ensures effective hand hygiene can be performed. It also removes the risk of carrying “hitch-hikers” on jewellery from one patient to another and then home to your family.

**Personal Protective Equipment:** is used to protect healthcare workers from exposure to blood/body substances or other infectious disease that require transmission-based precautions. When indicated, know how to put it on and remove it safely to protect yourself and prevent contamination of the surrounding area.

**Aprons:** worn by all healthcare workers who have direct contact with the any patient/client or their environment (patient zone)

**Gloves:** only to be used when contact with blood or body substances is anticipated

**Clean Between:** Ensure all equipment is cleaned before and after each patient use, refer to Cleaning Factsheet

**Environmental Cleaning:** ensure ward/unit cleanliness with routine cleaning, refer Cleaning Factsheet

**Aseptic Non-Touch Technique™:** refer to ANTT™ factsheet

**Safe Use and Disposal Of Sharps:** activate the safety device and ensure it is disposed of correctly as near to point of use as possible.

**Reprocessing of Reusable Medical Equipment and Instruments:** must comply with ①infection control policy, ②AS4187 and ③ manufacturer's guidelines. Ask IMACS for advice if you are unsure.

**Respiratory Hygiene And Cough Etiquette:** provide tissues and hand hygiene products for patients and staff to use.

**Waste And Linen are Handled Correctly:** Never compress linen or waste, and never decant waste from one container or bag to another.

## How does it benefit our patients?

Patients do not acquire a healthcare associated infection.

Increases the chances of a patient having a positive health care experience by reducing stigma and discrimination

## How does it benefit you?

Protects you from the risk of healthcare associated infections.

Provides you with a consistent approach for safe patient care.

## Where to get more information?

[NSW Health Infection Control /PD2017\\_013](#)

[Infection Management and Control Service](#)