RISK

Point of Care Risk Assessment

A Point of Care Risk Assessment or "PCRA" is a risk assessment that every healthcare worker (HCW) should be doing before every interaction. This risk assessment identifies the possible risks to you, other HCWs your patient*, and visitors. It then helps you decide what steps to take to decrease the risk(s) you identify.

ASSESS the RISK by doing a PCRA

Ask yourself "What is my Task?"

What kind of contact will I have?

- Short
- Long
- Close
- No contact with patient or environment

Is there a chance:

- I will be exposed to blood or body fluids during my task?
- There will be splashes or sprays of blood or body fluids during my task?

Ask yourself "How is the Patient?"

- Do they have signs and symptoms of an active infection? For example:
  - New cough
  - Sneezing
  - Rash
  - Fever
- Is the patient oriented? Can follow directions? Cooperative? Understands the situation? The language?
  - If they can, the patient is more likely to cover their cough and do hand hygiene. Or wear a mask if needed.
  - These practices can decrease environmental contamination and exposing others to their germs.

Ask yourself "Where are we Providing Care?

In a facility like a hospital, long term care or a clinic?

- In a home?
- Outreach settings?
- School?
  - Preventing the spread of potentially harmful germs is much easier in a healthcare setting, where equipment and supplies are readily available.

REDUCE the RISK

Once you have identified the risks, there are steps to lower the risk(s). For example:

- Hand hygiene
- Personal protective equipment
  - Gloves if hands may be in contact with blood or body fluids
  - Gowns if clothing may be exposed to blood or body fluids
  - Mask and eye/face protection if patient is coughing/sneezing, there are splashes or sprays of blood or body fluids
- Patient placement in facilities
  - Choosing the appropriate roommate (work with your ICP)
- Implementing Additional Precautions as necessary
- Clean and disinfect non-critical items and equipment before use on another patient