

INFECTION PREVENTION & CONTROL COMMUNICATION FORM SHARING OF PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

PART 1: ISSUE & RECOMMENDATIONS

Issue:

- Within the region, personal care items including, but not limited to tissues, lotions, creams, soaps, shampoo and razors are being shared. Sharing of personal care items can transmit infections between patients, residents and clients.

Recommendations:

1. Do not share personal care items (i.e., items used for bathing, skin care, nail care, oral hygiene, denture care, dressing care and incontinence care) between patients.
2. All personal care items should be stored in a manner that prevents use by another patient.
3. Visitors should not share patients' personal care items as they could be at risk for serious diseases should they acquire a patient's infection.
4. Discard personal care items left in a patient room following transfer and prior to discharge or terminal cleaning.

PART 2: BACKGROUND: DISCUSSION OF ISSUE, OPTIONS & ANALYSIS & REFERENCES

Discussion of Issue:

- The Public Health Agency of Canada (Health Canada) Routine Practices recommends personal care items should not be shared.

Analysis and Options:

- The importance of ensuring that personal care items are not shared and kept clean contributes to patients' safety and well-being. Prevention of transmission of microorganisms through contaminated personal care items is of prime importance. Personal care items should not be stored in a shared bathroom or shower space where they can become contaminated. Each patient's personal care supplies should be identified with his/her name and kept in a clean container (e.g., in a washable cosmetic bag or plastic container).

References:

1. Infection Prevention and Control Best Practices for Long Term Care and Community Care Including Health Care Offices and Ambulatory Clinics. (2007, June). Canadian Committee on Antibiotic Resistance. Available at: <http://www.wsava.org/sites/default/files/Infection%20Prevention%20and%20control%20Best%20Practices%20.pdf>.
2. Routine Practices and Additional Precautions: Prevention the Transmission of Infection in Health Care. (2013). Manitoba Health, Healthy Living and Seniors. Available at: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/docs/ipc/rpap.pdf>.
3. Routine Practices & Additional Precautions for Preventing the Transmission of Infection in Health Care. Canada Communicable Disease Report. (2012). Public Health Agency of Canada. Available at: <http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/440707/publication.html>.

Communication Form Contact:

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