

Routine Practices

Education for Health Care Staff

Routine Practices Overview

Routine Practices resource material is intended to provide staff working in acute care, long term care and community settings, including clinics and client's homes, with the information all staff need to know about Routine Practices regardless of the work setting.

What are Routine Practices?

- Routine Practices are the foundation for preventing the transmission of germs during patient/client/resident care in all healthcare settings.
- Routine Practices are a comprehensive set of infection prevention and control (IP&C) measures developed for use in the routine care of **ALL PATIENTS at ALL TIMES in ALL HEALTHCARE SETTINGS**.
- Recognizes germs are always present and can be transmitted from one person to another either directly or indirectly.
- Requires all patients be treated as if they were infectious each and every time contact occurs, even if they have not been identified as having an infectious disease.

Routine Practices – Why Are They Important?

- Routine Practices aim to prevent or minimize healthcare-associated infections in all individuals in the healthcare setting including patients, Healthcare Workers (HCWs), other staff, visitors, contractors, and so on.
- Adherence to Routine Practices can reduce the transmission of germs in all healthcare settings.

The Elements of Routine Practices are:

- Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA)
- Hand Hygiene (including Point of Care alcohol-based hand rub [ABHR])
- Source Control (triage, early diagnosis and treatment, respiratory hygiene, spatial separation)
- Patient Accommodation, Placement, & Flow
- Aseptic Technique
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Specimen Collection
- Sharps Safety & Prevention of Bloodborne Transmission
- Management of the Patient Care Environment
 - Cleaning of the Environment
 - Cleaning & Disinfection of Non-Critical Patient Care Equipment
 - Handling of Linen, Waste, Dishes
 - Handling of Deceased Bodies
- Visitor Management and Education

Consistent application of Routine Practices is expected for the care of all patients at all times across the continuum of care. All HCWs (physicians, nurses, allied HCWs, support staff, students, volunteers and others) are responsible for complying with Routine Practices and for tactfully calling infractions to the attention of offenders.

No one is exempt from complying with Routine Practices.

