

**Clinical Practice Process Improvement Tool : Standard Precautions**

Functional Area: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Overall Auditors: \_\_\_\_\_

Module: Standard Principles

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Auditors: \_\_\_\_\_

Standard: Evidence based best practice is being consistently applied to prevent transmission of infection.

Question Set: Standard Principles - Standard Principles

Observation: 1

	Question	Guidance	Yes	No	N/A	Comment
1	Is hand hygiene performed at each of the WHO 5 moments?	Check that the correct hand hygiene procedure is used.				
2	Is liquid soap and water used for hand washing when hands are visibly soiled?	Observe practice. Moment 3 - after body fluid exposure risk.				
3	Are gloves worn when in contact or anticipated contact with body fluids or in potential contact with contaminated items? (20, 79)	Observe practice such as handling of contaminated dressings/cleaning equipment.				
4	Is a single use apron worn when in contact or anticipated contact with body fluids or contaminated items or significant physical contact? (20, 79)	Observe practice or ask a member of staff to describe procedure.				
5	Is hand hygiene performed immediately following removal of personal protective equipment? (20, 90)	Observe practice. Moment 3 - after body fluid exposure.				
6	Is eye and face protection worn by staff when anticipating contact with blood and body fluids with a high risk of splashing into the face and eyes?	Observe practice or ask a member of staff to describe procedure.				
7	Is personal protective equipment disposed of immediately after use in the appropriate waste stream?	Observe practice, refer to local policy for waste stream colour.				
8	Is a single use apron worn by staff for bed making and when providing direct care for patients/residents?	Observe staff during the audit.				
9	Is the environment within the care area visibly clean?	Observe area i.e. room/bed space check for visible dust on surfaces and body fluid spills.				
10	Are sharps disposed of safely and at the point of use? (20, 81)	Observe practice or ask a member of staff to describe procedure. Also check that clean trays/bins are available and are compatible with the bins in use.				
11	Are sharps containers assembled correctly? (20, 23)	Check that the lids are secure on the sharps bins in use.				

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12	Are the contents of all sharps containers below the 'fill line'? (20, 48, 68)	Check all sharps containers are not overfilled.				
13	Are used needles and syringes discarded as a complete single unit? (20, 68, 81)	Observe practice or ask a member of staff to describe procedure.				
14	Are coughing patients/residents taught 'cough etiquette'?	'Cough etiquette' means cough or sneeze into a disposable tissue, dispose of immediately and wash hands, this may not be appropriate for all patients/residents e.g. EMI.				
15	Is all equipment routinely cleaned between every patient with general purpose detergent or as per local policy/manufacture's instructions where this differs? (77, 78, 82)	Observe practice or ask a member of staff to describe procedure.				

Question Set Comments/Recommendations for Standard Principles - Standard Principles

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- 48 Department of Health (2000) Hepatitis B infection healthcare workers: guidance on implementation of Health Service Circular 2000/020. London: Department of Health  
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- 68 AAGBI (2008) Infection control in anaesthesia AAGBI Safety Guideline: Infection Control in Anaesthesia. Anaesthesia, 63;1027-1036
- 77 Standards - March 2008 Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI): Quality Improvement Scotland, 2008.
- 78 Draft Infection Prevention and Control Standards: A Consultation Document: Health Information and Quality Authority, Republic of Ireland 2009
- 79 Personal Protective Equipment Policy and Procedure (an element of Standard Infection Control Precautions). In: Health protection Scotland, editor, 2009
- 81 Department of Health (1998) Guidance for Clinical Health Care Workers: Protection Against Infection with Blood-borne Virus Recommendations of the Expert Advisory Group on AIDS and the Advisory Group on Hepatitis
- 82 Department of Health (2009) Code of Practice for the NHS on the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections and related guidance: Department of Health.
- 90 World Health Organisation (2009) Guidelines on hand hygiene in health care. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organisation