

Inter Hospital Transport of Patients in Transmission-based (Isolation) Precautions

Purpose

To minimise cross infection when transporting patients who require transmission-based precautions between CDHB hospitals (including to and from West Coast facilities).

Scope

All staff who arrange and participate in patient transportation between hospitals

All providers of patient transportation

NB: aviation transportation operators are outside of the scope of this document

Associated documents

CDHB Policies

- [Standard Precautions](#)
- [Transmission-based Precautions](#)
- [Transfer of patients between hospitals - includes shuttle and ambulance options](#)
- [Care of Patient In-Transit: Christchurch Campus](#)

Shuttle and ambulance internal procedures

1 General infection prevention & control measures

- Notify the transport provider and transfer staff in advance of any transmission-based precautions required in transit.
- Patients are to clean their hands with ABHR on leaving their room/bedspace.
- Standard Precautions shall be applied for all patients
- Use clean linen if required (e.g. blanket), not linen from isolation room

2 Transmission-based precautions

Patient in transmission-based precautions should be identified by the type of precautions they are in – Contact, Droplet, Contact & Droplet or Airborne.

Precautions taken for transport reflect the mode of transmission. Refer Table below.

Patients who cannot meet the conditions for sharing transport must travel individually.

Table 1: Transport requirements for patients in precautions (colour indicates colour of isolation signage used in CDHB)

| Patients who CAN share shuttle | Healthcare Worker (HCW) PPE | | Patients who CANNOT share a shuttle and need individual transport | Healthcare Worker (HCW) PPE |
|--|--|--|---|---|
| Contact isolation - if continent or contained continence | HCW to have apron and gloves available in line with standard precautions | | Contact isolation - who have uncontained incontinence or uncontained wound ooze | HCW to have apron and gloves available in line with standard precautions |
| Droplet isolation - if able to tolerate surgical mask | none | | Droplet isolation - if unable to tolerate mask or perform respiratory hygiene | HCW to wear surgical mask |
| Airborne isolation - if able to tolerate surgical mask | none | | Airborne isolation if unable to tolerate surgical mask | HCW to wear N95 mask |
| - | - | | Contact and Droplet isolation | HCW to have apron, surgical mask and gloves available in line with standard precautions |

2.1 Cleaning and disinfection of surfaces

- Extra cleaning of the ambulance is not usually required after transporting a patient in transmission-based (isolation) precautions
 - Change any bedding used for the transfer
 - Routinely clean wheelchair / trolley with detergent and water or a detergent wipe after use
 - For visible evidence of contamination
- Remove gross body substance using paper towels or disposable clothes
 - Clean with detergent
 - Disinfect using diluted sodium hypochlorite (1000ppm) or approved disinfectant

Measurement

No evidence of transmission of infection via transportation – IPC surveillance procedures