

## Inter Hospital Transport of Patients in Isolation

### Purpose

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

### 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

### 1. General infection prevention and 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/bed space.
- Use clean linen if required (e.g. blanket), not linen from isolation room

### 2. Transport requirements for Transmission-based Precautions

Table 1: Transport requirements for patients in isolation precautions		
Patients who can share a shuttle	Patients who <u>cannot</u> share a shuttle	Enhanced precaution
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Contact Isolation with no transmission risk factors                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- diarrhoea</li> <li>- uncontained incontinence</li> <li>- uncontained wounds</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Droplet Isolation and able to tolerate surgical mask</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Contact Isolation with transmission risk factors                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- diarrhoea</li> <li>- uncontained incontinence</li> <li>- uncontained wounds</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Droplet isolation unable to tolerate mask or perform respiratory hygiene</li> <li>▪ Airborne isolation unable to tolerate surgical mask</li> <li>▪ Contact and droplet isolation</li> </ul>	<p>Can share shuttle if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Each have positive COVID test result</li> <li>▪ Able to wear surgical mask</li> </ul>

Table 2: Healthcare worker/Driver PPE*				
Contact Isolation	Droplet Isolation	Airborne Isolation	Contact and Droplet Isolation	Enhanced Precautions (COVID)
If direct contact required, wear apron and gloves	Everyone in shuttle to wear surgical mask	Wear N95 mask	Wear surgical mask with gloves and apron if direct contact required	<p>HCW to wear N95 and eye protection, gloves and gown only if direct contact required.</p> <p>Driver to wear N95 and have front windows partially open to allow fresh air flowing to vehicle</p>

\* Assess level of contact and use PPE accordingly (see Visual PPE Guide for Patient Care - Ref 2409321)

### 2.1 Cleaning and Disinfection of surfaces

1. Change any bedding used for the transfer
2. Remove gross body substance using paper towels or disposable clothes
3. Decontaminate wheelchair / trolley with Clinell Universal Wipes after use
4. Terminal cleaning of the ambulance is not usually required after transporting a patient in transmission-based (isolation) precautions

## 3. Measurement

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

## Supporting material

### Controlled documents

- Care of Patient in Transit - Ref 236062
- Standard Precautions - Ref 2400384
- Shuttle and ambulance internal procedures
- Visual PPE Guide for Patient Care - Ref 2409321
- Transmission Based Precautions (Isolation) – Ref 2400389
- Transfer of Patients between Hospitals - Ref 2400126