

Infection control and prevention

1. Hand Hygiene: Perform hand hygiene before and after patient contact, and after touching potentially contaminated surfaces or items. Use soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizers.

2. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Wear appropriate PPE such as gloves, masks, and gowns when required, depending on the type of contact and potential exposure risks.

3. Infection Control Practices:

- Standard Precautions: Apply to all patients and involve hand hygiene, use of PPE, safe injection practices, and proper handling of potentially contaminated items.
- Transmission-Based Precautions: Used in addition to standard precautions for patients with known or suspected infections that require additional measures, such as isolation for airborne, droplet, or contact transmission.

4. Environmental Cleaning: Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and equipment. Follow company protocols for cleaning patient care areas and equipment.

5. Waste Disposal: Dispose of contaminated waste, such as used gloves and dressings, in designated biohazard containers. Follow proper disposal protocols for sharps.

6. Patient Education: Educate patients and their families about infection prevention measures, including hand hygiene, proper wound care, and the importance of following prescribed treatments.

7. Vaccinations: Ensure that vaccinations are up to date, including those for influenza and other communicable diseases, to reduce the risk of infection.

8. Monitoring and Reporting: Monitor for signs of infections in patients and report any concerns or outbreaks to appropriate health authorities to ensure timely intervention.

By adhering to these practices, nurses can significantly reduce the risk of infections and ensure a safer home healthcare environment for patients and themselves.