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	Infection Control Management of Exposures of Patients and Personnel to Selected Communicable Diseases	<i>Supersedes</i>	10/01

KEY WORDS: exposure, communicable diseases, prophylaxis

POLICY

- When clinically possible, patients with communicable diseases should be managed on an outpatient basis in order to reduce the risk of disease transmission in the Hospital.
- When patients with communicable diseases are admitted to the hospital, they should be placed in the appropriate type of isolation as outlined in the Isolation Policy, IFC023: Appendix II <http://www.insidehopkinsmedicine.org/icpm/ifc023diseases.pdf>. When a patient is admitted to the Hospital with a known communicable disease transmissible by the airborne or droplet contact route, arrangements should be made to have the patient met at the door. The patient should be asked to wear a standard surgical mask (if tolerated) while moving to a patient care area.
- When a patient is admitted to the hospital with a history of having been exposed to a communicable disease prior to admission, the patient should be placed in isolation on the first day of the potential communicable period (before symptoms or signs of the disease develop), as outlined in Appendix B of this policy.
- Personnel who are exposed to a communicable disease to which they are susceptible (during work or away from work) must contact Occupational Health Services (OHS) after notifying HEIC. During business hours, Occupational Health Services can be reached at 410-955-6211, after hours, call operator at 410-955-500 for on-call pager.

RESPONSIBILITIES


- | | |
|--|--|
| JHH/JHU Staff | ▪ Must follow this policy. |
| Supervisor/Managers of all Departments | ▪ Must assist in the control of any exposure. |
| Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control (HEIC) | ▪ Will direct the exposure of communicable diseases. |
| Occupational Health Services | ▪ Will evaluate the exposed personnel, and provide prophylaxis when needed, follow work restriction recommendations. |

I. PROCEDURES

Managing Exposures to Communicable Diseases

A. Responsibilities

1. The first person to note an exposure must notify the Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control Department (HEIC) at ext. 5-8384 on weekdays, or by pager (410) 283-3855 at night or weekends. If no one is available page the Hospital Epidemiologist.
2. The nurse manager, charge nurse or designee is responsible for ensuring that appropriate infection control measures are initiated and that exposed patients and personnel are listed on an Exposure Survey (Appendix A). The Nurse Manager is responsible for notifying staff of their exposure and instructing them to call OHS or designated individual for follow-up.

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3. HEIC is responsible for prevention and assessing the nature, extent, and timing of exposures and ensuring that appropriate infection control measures are taken. Control measures beyond those specified may be implemented by the HEIC when warranted by unusual circumstances such as disease outbreaks.
4. HEIC is responsible for forwarding names of exposed personnel to OHS.
5. OHS will initiate prophylactic therapy as indicated. HEIC and OHS will also exclude personnel from duty when necessary, while OHS will clear personnel for return to duty.
6. Exposed individuals, including HCWs, patients, and visitors, must follow HEIC recommendations while on Hospital premises in regards to isolation, visitation and work restrictions.

B. Procedure


1. The nurse manager (or designee) should utilize the Exposure Form (Appendix A) to establish a list of patients, visitors and personnel who meet the exposure definition as defined by HEIC (Appendix B). This list should be faxed (410-614-0888) or emailed to HEIC.
 - a. The Exposure Form (Appendix A₁ or A₂) should include visitors exposed to varicella, pertussis, diphtheria, rubella, measles, mumps, meningococcal disease and other communicable diseases (e.g. SARS, smallpox, etc.).
 - b. The immune status of exposed persons is to be defined by history of disease or appropriate tests as specified by HEIC. OHS will obtain appropriate tests on exposed personnel. The responsible physician (or designee) will recommend Patient/visitor tests.
2. Providers must assist in determining the susceptibility of exposed patients, including discharged patients and in determining needs for prophylactic therapy. Providers must assist in identifying exposed providers and students.
3. HEIC will be responsible for contacting ancillary or service departments to obtain lists of exposed personnel.

C. Control Measures

1. Exposed susceptible patients who cannot be discharged before the time they might become communicable are to be isolated appropriately for the known incubation period as outlined in Appendix B. If the disease develops, isolation will be continued as outlined in the Isolation Policy, IFC023 <http://www.insidehopkinsmedicine.org/icpm/ifc023diseases.pdf>.
2. In certain situations, prophylactic therapy of exposed patients and/or personnel may be indicated.
3. In certain situations, it maybe necessary to:
 - cohort patients and/or health care workers
 - close patient care units to admissions
 - admit only immune individuals.

HEIC will assist in determining if such measures are necessary.

4. Exposed, susceptible employees may be excluded from duty for the entire period of potential communicability. OHS and HEIC will determine exclusion from duty.

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- Family members rooming-in with exposed patient on isolation should be screened for susceptibility to the disease. Susceptible individuals should be discouraged from visiting during the potential incubation period.

REFERENCES

Pickering, L.K. (Ed.). (2003). *Red Book 2003: 2003 Report of the committee on infectious diseases* (26th ed.). Chicago: American Academy of Pediatrics.

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Bolyard, E. A., Tablan, O.C., Williams, W.W., Pearson, M.L., Shapiro, C.N., Deitchmann, S.D. and the Hospital Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee. (1998). *Guidelines for infection control in healthcare personnel*. Retrieved August 4, 2004, from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/guide/InfectControl98.pdf>.

APPENDICES

Appendix A1 – Infection Control Management of Exposures of Patients and Personnel to Selected Communicable Diseases, Hospital Exposure Form <http://www.insidehopkinsmedicine.org/icpm/IFC012-exposuresA1.pdf>

Appendix A2 – Infection Control Management of Exposures of Patients and Personnel to Selected Communicable Diseases, Tuberculosis Form <http://www.insidehopkinsmedicine.org/icpm/IFC012-exposuresA2.pdf>

Appendix B – Infection Control Measures for Exposures of Patients and Personnel to Selected Communicable Diseases <http://www.insidehopkinsmedicine.org/icpm/IFC012-exposuresB.pdf>

SPONSOR

- Medical Care Evaluation Committee


DEVELOPERS

- Department of Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control
- Occupational Health Services

COMMUNICATION & EDUCATION

This policy will be communicated to the appropriate JHH personnel via the following channels:

- Updates and revisions will be communicated via Medical Staff and Nursing publications.
- Nurse Managers, Physician Advisors, Residency Coordinators, Department Chiefs and Department Management will be responsible to train new employees regarding the policy as appropriate, and to communicate updates to the protocol.
- This policy will be placed in the Interdisciplinary Clinical Practice Manual on the JHH Intranet site <http://www.insidehopkinsmedicine.org/icpm>. Paper distributions will be made to the Functional Unit Nursing offices in the event of web access difficulty.
- Placement of policy online at www.hopkins-HEIC.org.

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REVIEW CYCLE	• Three (3) years	MEDICAL BOARD	Approval Date: 9/28/04 Effective Date: 10/31/04
<p>VICE PRESIDENT FOR MEDICAL AFFAIRS</p> <hr/> <p>Date:</p>			

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