



## Staff Huddle: Enhanced Barrier Precautions in Nursing Homes

### Staff Huddle: - Week #1

**What is the risk?** Germs can live on hands and surfaces such as indwelling medical devices. When frontline staff know how germs spread and recognize the risk for the germs to spread, they can take infection prevention and control actions to stop the germs from spreading and protect themselves and their patients/residents.

**What are Enhanced Barrier Precautions?** Enhanced Barrier Precautions are a recommendation for staff to wear a gown and gloves while performing high contact care activities with all residents who are at higher risk of getting or spreading multidrug-resistant organisms (MDRO).

These include the following residents:

- Residents known to be colonized or infected with a multidrug-resistant organism (MDROs).
- Residents with an indwelling medical device including, but not limited to, central venous catheter, urinary catheter, feeding tube (PEG tube, G-tube), tracheostomy/ventilator, regardless of their multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs) status.
- Residents with a wound, regardless of their multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs) status

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### Staff Huddle: Week #2

#### High Contact Resident Care Activities.

High-contact resident care activities, which are often bundled together as part of morning or evening care, where a gown and gloves should be used include:

- Bathing/showering,
  - Transferring residents from one position to another (for example, from the bed to wheelchair),
  - Providing hygiene,
  - Changing bed linens,
  - Changing briefs or assisting with toileting,
  - Caring for or using an indwelling medical device (for example, central venous catheter, urinary catheter, feeding tube care, tracheostomy/ventilator care),
  - Performing wound care (for example, any skin opening requiring a dressing)
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### Staff Huddle: Week #3

#### **What you can tell residents, families, friends, and volunteers.**

- Clean your hands. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer can kill germs and keep us from spreading the germs. If alcohol-based hand sanitizer is not available, clean your hands with soap and water.
  - Use gown and gloves during high contact resident care activities. Since we can't wash our clothes between caring for residents, targeted gown and gloves use help keep these germs from getting on our clothes and spreading to others when we are having close contact with residents. Therefore, you might see us wearing a gown and gloves when we are performing transfers or other activities involving a lot of close contact with a resident.
  - Ask questions. We are always happy to answer any questions you might have about actions we are taking to protect our residents and staff and appreciate your support!
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### Staff Huddle: Week #4

#### **Implementing Enhanced Barrier Precautions.**

- Make PPE, including gowns and gloves, available immediately outside of the resident room.
- Ensure availability of alcohol-based hand sanitizer outside and inside every resident's room to remind caregivers to clean their hands before and after providing care to each resident.
- Position a trash can inside the resident room and near the exit to discard PPE to ensure that contaminated PPE is properly disposed, before going to the next patient/resident.
- Incorporate periodic monitoring and auditing of adherence to determine the need for additional training and education.
- Provide education to residents and visitors so that they understand how to help stop the spread of germs.