

# Infection Control in Outpatient Oncology



Patients with cancer have a weakened immune system and often come into contact with many germs in the healthcare setting. Let's start by asking.

## How can we prevent the spread of germs?



### Hand Hygiene

Alcohol-based hand rub is the best method for cleaning your hands,

- Except when hands are visibly soiled (e.g., dirt, blood, body fluids), or after caring for patients with known or suspected infectious diarrhea (e.g., *Clostridioides difficile* and *Norovirus*).
- Clean your hands prior to drawing up an injectable medication or accessing a port or central venous device.
- Clean your hands before and after glove removal.



### Injection Safety



#### DO

Perform a 30 second at minimum "scrub" to the access ports of IVs, or vascular access devices with sterile alcohol pad.



#### DO NOT

Do not administer medications from single dose/use vials to more than one patient.



### Personal Protective Equipment

Wear gloves when there is potential contact with:

- blood
- body fluids
- mucous membranes
- nonintact skin

A new gown is worn for every patient encounter while receiving chemotherapy treatment.

- Do not wear the same gown for the care of more than one patient.
- When selecting gowns, follow current guidelines for hazardous materials and meet facility policy.
- When selecting gloves, follow current guidelines for hazardous materials and meet facility policy.

#### Surgical Masks

- Wear when any risk of respiratory droplets or sprays of blood or body fluids.



### Cleaning and Disinfecting

Focus cleaning on high-touch surfaces regularly (more often if facility policy states).

- Keyboards, treatment carts, IV pumps, blood pressure cuff, stethoscope, chairs, doorknobs, IV poles, patient chairs, and exam tables.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for cleaning and disinfecting environmental surfaces and medical devices; ensure that the cleaning product used is compatible with the surface or device being cleaned.

