

Policy Applies to:

All staff employed by Mercy Hospital, Credentialed Specialists, Allied Health professionals, students, patients, visitors and contractors will be supported to meet policy requirements.

Related Standards:

- Infection Prevention and Control Standards NZS 8134.3:2008
- Health and Safety at Work Act, 2015
- EQuIP 3.1.2 Health and Safety
- EQuIP 1.5.2 Infection Control

Rationale:

This policy defines the standards and processes associated with the use of personal protective equipment within the context of infection prevention and control. Personal protective equipment provides a barrier which reduces the opportunity for transmission of pathogens within a healthcare setting and provides protection for the health care worker.

Requirements for personal protective equipment outside of those used for infection control hazards do not come under this procedure (Refer to Personal Protective Equipment policy).

Definitions:

Personal protective equipment (PPE) use is part of standard precautions for all health care workers to prevent skin and mucous membrane exposure when in contact with blood and body fluid of any patient.

(PPE) includes protective laboratory clothing, disposable gowns, disposable gloves, eye protection, and face masks.

Transmission based precautions are safety measures designed for the care of patients who are documented or suspected to be infected with highly transmissible pathogens. This requires additional precautions beyond standard precautions to interrupt transmission in hospitals. There are three types of transmission-based precautions: airborne precautions, droplet precautions, and contact precautions.

Objectives:

- To ensure staff understand when to use PPE as part of standard and transmission based precautions
- To ensure staff understand what PPE equipment is available and where to access it

- To ensure staff understand how to safely don and remove PPE

Implementation:

Protective equipment will be supplied and available in each clinical area or department as required.

All staff shall wear appropriate protective equipment whenever it is reasonably anticipated that they will be in contact with blood or body fluids from any patient. Personal protective equipment shall include: gloves, apron / gown, mask, protective eyewear/face shield.

Visitors are not usually required to wear protective clothing but gowns, gloves/aprons or masks may be required for isolation procedures.

Staff will be trained in the use of PPE in orientation and the safe donning and removing of PPE (see appendix one and two) as part of clinical isolation education.

Environmental audits will review standard precautions compliance and PPE

Evaluation:

Orientation training and records

Isolation education records

Environmental audit reports

Prevention and effective risk management of infectious disease cross infection or outbreak.

Appendix One: Donning PPE

Appendix Two: Removing PPE

Associated Documents:

- Lippincott, Personal Protective Equipment

Internal

- Health and Safety Policy
- Personal Protective Equipment Policy
- Standard Precautions Policy
- Transmission Based Precautions – Isolation Policy
- Transmission Based Precautions – Isolation Policy
- Disease Specific Isolation Precautions - Patient Management

- Hand Hygiene Policy
- Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Policy

Process

Gloves

Gloves must be available and accessible in a range of sizes in all patient care areas.

Gloves are single use.

Wearing gloves reduces contamination of hands and minimises the risk that a health care worker will become infected after contact with a patient's blood or body substance. When gloves are worn and used appropriately they can reduce the likelihood that staff will transmit micro-organisms from their hands to patients.

The type of glove used will depend on the task involved:

Non sterile gloves:

- Non sterile nitrile gloves are suitable for most situations when contact with any blood or body substance, mucous membranes or non-intact skin is anticipated.

Sterile gloves:

- Sterile gloves shall be worn for surgical procedures where asepsis must be maintained
- Staff involved with surgical procedures should double-glove for added protection

Masks

A mask shall be worn in any situation

- When splash or splatter with blood or body substance to the mucous membranes on the mouth and nose is anticipated
- To protect staff from inhalation of infectious aerosols or droplets, smoke or plume or other airborne hazards
- To prevent the spread of micro-organisms from the nasopharynx of staff of the patient to others who are susceptible.

Types of masks:

Surgical Mask (with or without visor)

- Used in wards, departments or operating theatres

N95 Particulate Mask

- Used when caring for patients with diagnosed or suspected airborne infectious diseases

Eye/ Face Protection

Eye/face protection shall be worn in any situation when splash or splatter with blood or body substance to the mucous membrane of the mouth, nose and or eyes is likely.

Types of eye/face protection:

- Chin length plastic face shield
- Mask with visor attached
- Safety glasses with side shields
- Goggles

Note: Prescription glasses do not provide adequate protection

Protective Clothing

Gowns/ aprons are to be worn to protect clothing and/or skin from becoming contaminated, soiled or wet from splashes or contact with blood or body substances, or during cleaning and disinfection.

Types of protective clothing:

Plastic aprons

- In general, disposable plastic aprons are sufficient to provide protection from contamination

Fluid Resistant Gown

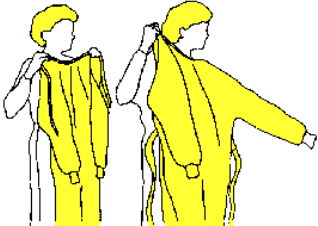



- Long sleeved, disposable fluid resistant gowns should be used for contact isolation or where there is an elevated risk of contamination

Note: Plastic aprons and gowns are single use

APPENDIX ONE

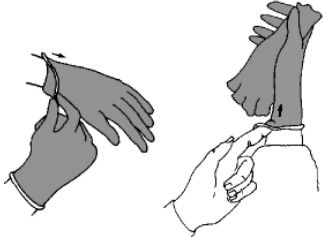

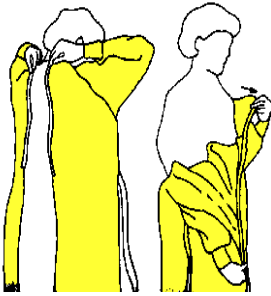
Donning PPE


- Perform Hand hygiene.
- Put on PPE before entering patient room, in the following order.

<p>1. Disposable Gown</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully cover torso from neck to knees, arms to end of wrist, and wrap around the back. • Fasten in back at neck and waist. 	
<p>2. Mask</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure ties above and below ears or elastic loops around ears. • Flatten flexible metal band over nose bridge. • Fit snug to face and below chin. <p><i>Note: The coloured side is worn outward.</i></p>	
<p>3. Goggles / Face shield</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put over face and eye and adjust to fit. 	
<p>4. Gloves</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend to cover wrist of isolation gown. 	

Removing PPE

APPENDIX TWO: Remove PPE before leaving the patient room in the following order

<p>1. Gloves</p> <p>Outside of gloves are contaminated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grasp outside of glove with opposite gloved hand; peel off. • Hold removed glove in gloved hand. • Slide fingers of un-gloved hand under remaining glove at wrist. • Perform hand hygiene. 	
<p>2. Goggles / Face shield</p> <p>Outside of goggles or face shield are contaminated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To remove, handle by 'clean' headband or ear pieces. • Place in designated receptacle for reprocessing. • Perform hand hygiene. 	
<p>3. Gown</p> <p>Gown front and sleeves are contaminated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unfasten neck, then waist ties. • Remove gown using a peeling motion; pull gown from each shoulder toward the same hand. • Gown will turn inside out. • Hold removed gown away from body, roll into a bundle and discard into waste receptacle. • Perform hand hygiene. 	

<p>4. Mask</p> <p>Front of mask is contaminated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grasp bottom then top ties/elastics and remove. • Place in waste receptacle. • Perform hand hygiene. 	

Note: If contact isolation, place gown & gloves in yellow hazardous waste bag.