

Isolation procedures

Patient information sheet

Sometimes it may be necessary to nurse patients with isolation precautions.

Isolation precautions are usually taken to prevent the spread of infection to other patients. However, occasionally these precautions may be taken to protect the isolated patient.

The purpose of this leaflet is to offer information to you and your family, in order that you will be aware of the isolation precautions that will be taken.

The word 'bacteria' has been used in this leaflet to describe commonly used terms, such as 'bugs' or 'germs'.

What happens if I am moved into a single room for isolation/barrier nursing reasons?

- The ward staff will explain to you and your relatives why you are being barrier nursed and the extra precautions that will be taken to limit the spread of the bacteria.
- A sign will be displayed on the door to inform people coming to see you. This sign is a specific colour, depending on the bacteria you have and how it is spread. The sign details the precautions that all healthcare workers are required to take when looking after you.
- It is preferable that the door to your room is kept closed, as this helps to control the spread of the bacteria.
- Equipment associated with your care will, either be cleaned, disinfected and re-used, or disposed of, depending on the type of equipment.

- When possible, any treatments or investigations may be carried out in your room. If you need to leave your room for any reason (for example to go to another department), some extra precautions may need to be taken. The ward staff will discuss this with you.

What should I do?

You are advised to perform hand washing:

- Before meal or snack times.
- After using the toilet facilities.
- Before and after going to another department, for example X-ray.

If toilet facilities have been designated for your use only, then please only use these facilities - the ward staff will advise you.

Please limit the amount of personal belongings stored on your bedside locker or table, to enable domestic staff to clean the surfaces.

What should my visitors do?

- Visitors are advised to use the hand sanitiser before entering the room and wash their hands with soap and water before leaving your room.
- It may be necessary for your visitors to wear PPE such as masks. Staff will advise if required.
- Your visitors should use the visitor toilet facilities on the main ward.
- They should not visit any other patients in the hospital after visiting you.

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Large print copies and alternative language versions of this leaflet can be made available on request.

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All staff are required to clean their hands:

- Before entering and leaving your room. (It is probable you may not be able to see staff cleaning their hands before entering your room, but 'It is OK to ask' staff if they have cleaned their hands).
- After removing any protective equipment such as gloves, aprons and masks.
- Before and after handling any medical devices such as drips, drains, catheters.
- Before and after handling any body fluids eg changing or removing your wound dressing.
- After contact with equipment in the room environment, eg bedside locker, table, chair, notes folder.

We hope you can be reassured by the information contained in this leaflet and understand that the measures being taken are part of our continued commitment to the prevention and control of infection within Royal Papworth Hospital.

Further information

Please do not hesitate to ask a member of the ward staff, in the first instance, if you have any further questions or ask to contact a member of the infection prevention and control team as listed below.

Infection control nurse contact:

01223 638052
Open between 08:00 - 16:00

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