Policies and Procedures
Residential and Assisted Living Communities

Policy Title: Policy in Contagious Disease or Infection
Policy Number: HS.11.10.27  Effective Date: 10.1.16
Approved By: Kevin Cox

Policy:
To provide guidelines for appropriate precautions of residents known or suspected to have contagious infection or disease.

Equipment and Supplies:
Standard precaution sign
Box of gloves
Handwashing agent, antimicrobial, alcohol hand sanitizer
Gown, as indicated
Mask, as indicated
Plastic bags
Resident specific B/P Cuff, stethoscope, thermometer

Procedure:
1. Persons who have Staphylococcus aureus resistant to nafcillin, oxacillin or methicillin, no matter what other antibiotics they may be sensitive to, will be considered to have MRSA.

2. Residents known or suspected to have MRSA infection or a contagious disease will be placed on standard precautions, until signs and symptoms of infection are resolved or no longer contagious.

3. Should a resident be placed on standard precautions, implement the following:
   a. Have supply of masks readily available if indicated.
   b. Place a box of gloves in the room if not otherwise provided.
   c. Have a supply of gowns readily available if indicated.
   d. Be certain that antiseptic handwashing agent is available.
   e. Standard precaution sign on door.
   f. Explain procedures/precautions to family members.
   g. Plastic bags available in room for all linen/waste removal.

4. Names of residents known to have a contagious condition.

5. At the first indication resident may be infected, the RCM/DNS will institute appropriate standard precautions as indicated by posting a sign on the residents door.

6. Room transfers, during and after contagious period will be considered individually.
7. Masks are required when working within a 3 feet area of residents known to have MRSA or other airborne contagious infection, if coughing, sneezing or non-visible droplets or resistant infections.

8. Gowns are required when working with residents known to have substantial drainage/secretions and probability of saturation or skin contact contagious diseases.

9. Bag all soiled articles; do not use red bags unless items are saturated.

10. If infected resident has roommates, the resident need not be moved unless roommates have: open sores, Foley catheter, G-tube, N/G tube, trach or deemed necessary by DNS or Medical Director.

11. It is vital to remember to NEVER place a resident’s belongings (ie clothing, stuffed animals, linens) on another resident’s belongings or area (ie: chair, bed, overbed table, bedside stand, wheelchair, linens) to prevent cross-contamination. This is key to good infection control practice.