

Standard Precautions (≥ PL1)

Clinical Indications:

1. Standard precautions are intended to be applied to the care of all patients in all healthcare settings, regardless of the suspected or confirmed presence of an infectious agent. Implementation of standard precautions constitutes the primary strategy for the prevention of healthcare-associated transmission of infectious agents among patients and healthcare personnel.

Contraindications:

1. None

Notes/Precautions:

1. Standard precautions are based on the principle that all blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions except sweat, non-intact skin, and mucous membranes may contain transmissible infectious agents.
2. The application of standard precautions during patient care is determined by the nature of the provider-patient interaction and the extent of anticipated blood, body fluid, or pathogen exposure. For some interactions, only gloves may be needed (e.g. performing venipuncture); during other interactions (e.g. intubation) use of gloves, gown, and face shield or mask and goggles is necessary.

Procedure:

Wear the appropriate level of PPE based on the mode of transmission of the suspected infectious agent when the nature of the anticipated patient interaction indicates contact with blood or body fluids may occur. Where respiratory vectors are considered employ PPE in accordance with the Respiratory Precautions Procedure.

Gloves:

1. Wear ear gloves when it can be reasonably anticipated that contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials, mucous membranes, non-intact skin, or potentially contaminated intact skin (e.g., of a patient incontinent of stool or urine) could occur.
2. Remove gloves after contact with a patient and/or the surrounding environment (including medical equipment) using proper technique to prevent hand contamination.
3. Do not wear the same pair of gloves for the care of more than one patient.

Gowns:

1. Wear a gown, that is appropriate to the task, to protect skin and prevent soiling or contamination of clothing during procedures and patient-care activities when contact with blood, body fluids, secretions, or excretions is anticipated.
2. Wear a gown for direct patient contact if the patient has uncontained secretions or excretions.
3. Remove gown and perform hand hygiene before leaving the patient's environment.
4. Do not reuse gowns.

Mouth, Nose, Eye Protection:

1. Use PPE to protect the mucous membranes of the eyes, nose and mouth during procedures and patient care activities that are likely to generate splashes or sprays of blood, body fluids, secretions and excretions. Select masks, goggles, face shields, and combinations of each according to the need anticipated by the task performed.
2. During aerosol-generating procedures (e.g., suctioning of the respiratory tract, advanced airway maneuvers) in patients who are not suspected of being infected with an agent for which respiratory protection is otherwise recommended (e.g. M. tuberculosis, SARS or hemorrhagic fever viruses), wear one of the following: a face shield that fully covers the front and sides of the face, a mask with attached shield, or a mask and goggles (in addition to gloves and gown).