

Action to prevent spread in hospital and care homes

At the point at which a patient is suspected of having infectious diarrhoea, enhanced infection prevention and control precautions (i.e. transmission based precautions) should be applied as far as possible until the patient is asymptomatic for at least 48 hours. Local infection prevention and control teams should be informed and can provide additional advice on control measures in the acute setting.

These precautions include:

1. Patient placement: Place patient in a single room with ensuite facilities or own commode until they have been asymptomatic for at least 48 hours.
2. Health care equipment: Patient should have their own health care equipment which is not shared with other patients if possible. All re-usable patient care equipment should be cleaned with chlorine based detergent after each use.
3. Patient environment: The patient environment should be subject to enhanced cleaning with a chlorine based detergent to reduce risk of spread via contaminated environment.
4. Hand hygiene: Staff and visitors should be encouraged to wash their hands with liquid soap and fresh running water before and after contact with the patient or the patient's immediate environment
5. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Staff should wear gloves, apron, surgical mask/visor (if risk of facial contamination with aerosols). Hand hygiene should be carried out following removal of PPE.
6. Visitors should be encouraged to undertake thorough hand hygiene, before and after visiting.

Further advice can be found in the national infection prevention and control manual at:
<http://www.nipcm.hps.scot.nhs.uk/>

Guidance on infection prevention and control in childcare settings can be found at:
<https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/web-resources-container/infection-prevention-and-control-in-childcare-settings-day-care-and-childminding-settings/>