***COMMENT: THESE POLICY AND PROCEDURE TEMPLATES ARE MADE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR USE BUT ARE NOT ALL INCLUSIVE. PLEASE REVIEW IT WITH YOUR FACILITY ADMINISTRATION AND AMEND IT TO MEET YOUR FACILITY NEEDS. STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES MAY HAVE ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS THAT NEED TO BE INCLUDED.***

**Title: Enhanced Barrier Precautions Effective Date:**

**Approved By: Review/Revised Date:**

**Purpose:**

To reduce the risk of transmission of multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs) in the facility.

**Definitions:**

Enhanced Barrier Precautions are an infection control measure that involves gown and glove use during high-contact resident care activities for residents who have open wounds or indwelling devices or who have a known recent colonization or infection with a MDRO (when Contact Precautions do not apply).

High Contact activity includes activities that place the resident and the person helping them in close physical contact that increases the risk of transmission of MDRO between the resident and health care provider. These activities included:

* Bathing/Showering
* Transferring
* Providing Hygiene (brushing teeth, combing hair, and shaving)
* Changing Linens
* Changing Briefs
* Device care: Central line, Urinary catheter, feeding tube, tracheotomy/ventilator
* Wound care and dressing changes

Isolated activities, particularly those done outside the resident room (e.g. helping with a sweater in the dining room or helping transfer from sitting to standing in the common area) **do not** constitute high-contact activities for this policy.

Open Wounds include open wounds that typically require dressing changes such as pressure injuries, venous ulcers, vascular ulcers, diabetic ulcers, surgical wounds. They do not apply to stage I pressure injuries, small abrasions, or scratches).

Indwelling devicesinclude any devices that are inserted into the resident and have contact with the external air such as foley catheters, central lines including PIC lines, tracheostomies, feeding tubes, or drains). They do not apply to peripheral IVs, dialysis shunts or AV fistulas, or PortaCaths, or Pacemakers, vascular stents)

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) used to reduce the risk of exposure to and transmission of microorganisms. Includes the use of gowns, gloves, face protection (mask or respirator) and eye protection (goggles or face shield).

Current Targeted MDROs from CDC

* Pan-resistant organisms,
* Carbapenemase-producing carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales,
* Carbapenemase-producing carbapenem-resistant *Pseudomonas* spp.,
* Carbapenemase-producing carbapenem-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii*, and
* *Candida auris*

Epidemiologic important MDROs may include but are not limited to:

* Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)*,
* ESBL-producing Enterobacterales,
* Vancomycin-resistant *Enterococci (VRE)*,
* Multidrug-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*,
* Drug-resistant *Streptococcus pneumoniae*

**Policy Statement:**

Facility shall implement Enhanced Barrier Precautions (EBP) based on an evaluation of the resident’s risk of acquiring an MDRO and their MDRO colonization or infection status with Target MDROs.

*COMMENT: CHECK WITH YOUR STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT AS WELL AS YOUR MEDICAL DIRECTOR IF YOU SHOULD EXTEND THIS POLICY TO INCLUDE SOME OR ALL OF THE EPIDEMIOLOGIC IMPORTANT MDROS.*

**Procedure:**

1. Evaluate resident’s eligibility for placement on Enhanced Barrier Precautions. Do they have any of the following:
	* 1. Wound
		2. Indwelling device
		3. Colonization or infection with MDRO covered by this policy
2. Notify the following individuals that the resident has been placed on EBP
	1. resident
	2. resident representative
	3. Infection Preventionist, and
	4. Resident’s medical provider.
	5. Update the CarePlan to reflect changes in care needs, as well as any Care Cards and other staff communications such as daily huddles.
3. Room placement:
* Single-resident room is not required for residents needing EBP; unless Contact Precautions is indicated.
* If placed in a shared room:
	+ maintain spatial separation of at least 3 feet between beds
	+ use privacy curtains to limit direct contact
1. Place EBP signage outside the resident’s room (e.g., door/wall) that clearly indicates the high-contact resident care activities that require the use of a gown and gloves.
2. Gloves and gowns should be used during **high contact resident care activities** done in a resident's room or during rehabilitation services unless there is risk of exposure to body fluids which would require additional PPE.
* An isolated occurrence of providing a high-contact activity, particularly when done outside the resident's room does not generally necessitate use of gown and gloves unless the duration is not brief.
1. After providing high-contact activity remove gown and gloves and perform hand hygiene before caring for another resident.
2. Continue Enhanced Barrier Precautions for the duration of a resident’s stay in the facility or until the wound is fully healed or the indwelling device is removed.
	1. For residents with known colonization or infection, EBP should be continued for XXX. Routine testing for MDROs should not be performed unless directed by State or Local health department
* Residents are not restricted from leaving their room or from participation in group activities/dining.

**Other Activities**

1. Place PPE cart/container, with gowns and gloves whenever possible in easily accessible locations such as outside or near the resident’s room.
2. Position a trash can inside the resident room such as near the exit for discarding gown and gloves after removal, prior to exit of the room or before providing care for another resident in the same room.
3. Provide alcohol-based hand sanitizer for use inside and outside of the resident’s room if a sink with soap and water are not available.
4. Provide education to the residents and visitors regarding Enhanced Barrier Precautions.
5. Use an EPA approved hospital grade disinfectant when cleaning reusable or shared equipment and environmental surfaces in the resident's room or other high touch surfaces.

**Resources:**

CDC Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about Enhanced Barrier Precautions in Nursing Homes, Last Reviewed: July 27, 2022. <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/containment/faqs.html>

CDC Implementation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Use in Nursing Homes to Prevent Spread of Multidrug-resistant Organisms (MDROs), Last Reviewed: August 1, 2023. <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/containment/PPE-Nursing-Homes.html>