

STANDARD PRECAUTIONS 101

Proposed Standard Precautions For All Patient Care Activities Within the Correctional Setting

Area	Comments	Recommendations
Hand hygiene: Hand washing	Most infections are transmitted from person to person, often on the hands of health care workers. Routine use of soap and water is the most effective way to remove dirt and potentially pathogenic organisms. Alcohol-based hand washes are also very effective, and may be useful adjuncts to hand washing with soap and water. Potential safety and security issues must be addressed prior to the introduction of alcohol-based hand washes.	Hands should be washed routinely, regardless of whether gloves were worn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - after touching body fluids or contaminated items - before eating - after using the restroom - when hands are visibly dirty - before moving from one patient to another - when moving from a contaminated to a clean site on the same patient
Hand hygiene: Artificial fingernails	The wearing of artificial fingernails by HCWs has been associated with the transmission of resistant organisms.	HCWs should avoid wearing artificial fingernails while providing health care.
Hand hygiene: Rings	The wearing of rings by HCWs has been associated with an increased risk for transmission of bacteria to patients.	HCWs should limit the wearing of rings while providing health care.
Personal protective equipment: Gloves		Gloves should be worn if contact with blood or another potentially contagious body fluid is likely. Sweat is not a potentially infectious fluid. Gloves do not replace the need for hand washing. Gloves are intended for single use.
Personal protective equipment: Goggles and face shield		Goggles and face shields are not a part of standard precautions. Consider the use of goggles or face shields if involved in a procedure that may lead to splashing of body fluids.
Personal protective equipment: Gowns	Disposable gown	A gown should be used if contact with blood, potentially contagious body fluids, or a contaminated environmental surface is likely.
Sharps		Always have a puncture resistant leak proof container at the site where a sharp instrument is used. If necessary to use a sharp instrument in a cell, take along a portable sharps container for immediate disposal of used sharp instrument. Immediately dispose of all used sharps in a sharps container. Do not transport used sharps except in an approved sharps container. Do not pass used sharps from person to person. Do not bend, break, or recap sharps prior to disposal.
Housing of inmate patients	Overcrowding can facilitate the transmission of many contagious illnesses.	Avoid overcrowding.
Patient hygiene	Poor hygiene can facilitate the transmission of many contagious illnesses.	Inmates should have access to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - soap and water - showers
Laundry	Inadequate supply of clean clothing and linen can facilitate the transmission of many contagious illnesses.	Inmates should be provided an ample supply of clean laundry. Inmates who have conditions that predispose to soiling clothing with blood/body fluids should be provided additional laundry access. Inmates should be discouraged from washing their own clothing. Soap and water can remove dirt and odors, but cannot disinfect clothing. Laundry must either reach a temperature of 160 degrees F for a minimum of twenty-five minutes or be done with sufficient bleach to allow for cold disinfection. Clothes dryers also serve as disinfecting agents and pediculicides. Clothing that has been soiled with blood, purulent matter, and other potentially contagious body fluids should be bagged by the user and then placed in a leak proof bag prior to transport to the laundry. Laundry workers should utilize appropriate PPE.
Housekeeping	Environmental surfaces can be a source of transmission of contagious organisms.	All inmate housing areas should be cleaned on a regular schedule utilizing approved disinfectants. Common areas such as booking and bus screen areas, showers, toilets, day rooms, gymnasiums, weight equipment, and clinic waiting rooms should be cleaned frequently.
Transportation	Transportation vehicles can be a source of transmission for a variety of contagious illnesses.	Perform transportation in a hygienic manner while adhering to all listed standard precautions.
Access to medical care	Barriers to health care have been found to be a risk factor for MSRA infection.	Attempts should be made to remove barriers to access to care for those who have potentially contagious skin and soft tissue infections.

Proposed Transmission Based (Contact) Precautions for Patients with Confirmed/Suspected MRSA in the Correctional Setting

Area	Comments	Recommendations
Hand hygiene	As per standard precautions.	As per standard precautions.
Personal protective equipment	Gloves	Gloves should be worn whenever entering the room of a patient who is on contact precautions for MRSA. Gloves should be removed and discarded prior to leaving the patient's room.
Personal protective equipment	Eye protection, face shields	Eye protection and face shields are generally not a part of standard precautions to prevent the transmission of MRSA. These items should only be used during procedures that are likely to cause splashing of body fluids into the eyes or mouth.
Personal protective equipment	Disposable gown	A gown should be worn whenever entering the room of a patient who is on contact precautions for MRSA.
Sharps	Sharps injuries are not a common mechanism for the transmission of MRSA.	As per standard precautions.
Patient care equipment	Patient care equipment (stethoscopes, blood pressure cuffs, otoscopes, etc.) can become contaminated and lead to transmission of pathogenic organisms.	Avoid sharing patient care equipment that has been used on patients who are on contact precautions. If sharing is unavoidable, clean/disinfect the equipment before re-use.
Housing of inmate patients	Overcrowding and contact with a person who is infected or colonized with MRSA have been found to be risk factors for MRSA infection.	In addition to the measures noted in standard precautions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If available, utilize single cell housing for inmates who have draining skin lesions presumed or confirmed to be secondary to MRSA. - If single cell housing is not available, cohort those who have draining skin lesions in a dedicated dormitory setting. - Inmates who have draining skin lesions and who are unable or unwilling to maintain personal hygiene should be placed in an infirmary setting.
Patient hygiene	Poor hygiene has been found to be a risk factor for MRSA infection.	As per standard precautions.
Access to medical care	Barriers to health care have been shown to be risk factors for MRSA infection.	In addition to the details in standard precautions, consideration should be given to the establishment of dedicated wound care clinics and/or wound care teams that attend to inmates in their cells/dorms.
Laundry	Inadequate supply of clean clothing and linen has been found to be a risk factor for MRSA infection.	As per standard precautions.
Housekeeping/sanitation	Environmental surfaces can be a source of MRSA transmission.	As per standard precautions. In addition, implement frequent and terminal cleaning/disinfection of clinical areas and housing of those who are infected with MRSA. Surfaces should be cleaned with either a 1:100 solution of diluted bleach or an EPA-registered hospital disinfectant.
Transportation		In addition to the details in standard precautions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limit inmate movement to that which is medically/legally necessary. - Utilize dressings that entirely cover any skin lesions and contain any drainage precautions. - Use disposable or washable restraints. - Clean transportation vehicle after transport of the infected person.
Inmate activities	A variety of activities have been shown to lead to person-to-person transmission of MRSA.	In addition to the details in standard precautions, those who have draining wounds should be excluded from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communal/contact athletic activities - Culinary employment - School attendance - Chapel - Other non-essential group activities