



Consensus-Based Guideline on the: Transport of Patients on Contact Precautions

These guidelines are recommended for use in the transfer of patients to another unit or department within the hospital. The guidelines are not evidence-based, but expert based and can serve as a resource in developing or updating hospital policies.

The safe and effective transport of patients on contact precautions begins with the identification and communication of this information to all departments in a hospital.

1. Communication

When transferring a patient on contact precautions to another unit or department, hospitals are encouraged to use multiple methods of communication. Some examples of these are:

1. Verbal Notification
2. Written Notification

Examples: Contact precautions included on hand-off report
“Ticket to Ride”

3. Visual Alerts

Examples: Contact precautions sticker on chart
Contact precautions indicated on a patient bracelet
OR schedule designating patients on contact precautions
Colored drapes

4. Computer Alerts

2. Transport

Hospital transporters are encouraged to follow the steps below when transferring a patient to another unit or department in the hospital:

A. Before entry to the patient’s room:

1. Drape a clean sheet over the stretcher or wheelchair to cover the entire area that will come in contact with the patient.
2. Perform hand hygiene. Put on a gown and gloves.

B. Inside the patient room:

1. Follow hospital's policy for identification of patient.
2. Assist the patient onto the stretcher or wheelchair. After readying the patient for transport, wipe down areas of the stretcher or wheelchair that may be touched during transport (handles, rails) with a hospital-approved disinfectant.
3. If the patient must be transported in the bed, wipe down areas of the bed (head and foot of bed, hand-rails) that may be touched during transport with a hospital-approved disinfectant.
3. Remove gown and gloves. Perform hand hygiene.
4. Cover patient with a clean sheet or blanket obtained outside of the room.

C. During transport:

1. Single transporter does not need to wear gown and gloves.
2. If there are two transporters due to the patient's condition, one transporter should wear a gown and gloves to attend to the patient's needs. The other transporter does not wear a gown or gloves and should open doors, push elevator buttons, etc.

D. Upon arrival to receiving department:

1. Report to personnel receiving the patient that the patient is on contact precautions.
2. If the patient needs to be transferred to a bed or table, staff must perform hand hygiene and don a gown and gloves. Assist the patient onto the bed/table.
3. When transport is complete, discard linen in linen hamper. Remove gown and gloves. Perform hand hygiene.

E. Prior to leaving receiving department:

1. Put on gloves. Wipe down the stretcher or wheelchair and any equipment used in the care of the patient during transport with a hospital-approved disinfectant.
2. Remove gloves. Perform hand hygiene.