

Nursing Skills

Implementing Airborne Isolation Precautions

Procedure

PROCEDURE STEPS

1. Place or verify that the patient has been placed in an AIIR³
2. If the patient is not in an AIIR, arrange transfer to an AIIR as soon as possible
3. If an AIIR is not available, place the patient in a private room with the door closed to reduce the likelihood of airborne transmission until the patient can be transferred to a facility with appropriate air handling and ventilation capacity³
4. In a pandemic, patients with known or suspected disease, such as COVID-19, should be cared for in a single room with door closed. AIIR would be reserved for patients undergoing aerosol-generating procedures⁸
5. Collaborate with appropriate healthcare personnel to determine whether or not cohorting patients with same disease is possible and desirable
6. Ensure patient room is stocked appropriately with isolation supplies, and signage is posted to notify staff and visitors.
 1. Place a sign at the entrance to the patient's room and at strategic places in the patient's room to notify all staff members and visitors that airborne precautions are being observed



IMAGE 2

Airborne Precautions Sign

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2. Verify that the anteroom to the AIIR is stocked with PPE, including [N95 respirators](#) for facility personnel and surgical or isolation masks for the patient and visitors

3. If the AIIR does not have an anteroom, bring an isolation cart stocked with the necessary PPE to just outside the entrance to the patient's room
4. Verify that hand washing supplies or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer are within easy access to the cart or caddy and an appropriate trash receptacle is available for discarded respirators and surgical masks
5. Include a notice that the cart contains latex-based items because family members and visitors may be using the items in the cart, if applicable
7. Properly [don](#) respirator⁴
8. Perform [seal check](#) of respirator
9. Don other PPE as appropriate⁴
10. Establish privacy by closing the door to the patient's room and/or drawing the curtain surrounding the patient's bed
11. Keep the door to the AIIR closed when not required for entry and exit
12. Handle linens with minimal agitation to reduce the risk for inadvertent dispersal of pathogens
13. Remove the respirator by first bringing the lower elastic strap up and over the head, and then bring the upper elastic strap up and over the head
14. Remove the facepiece from over the nose and mouth
15. Handle the respirator only by the elastic straps
16. Do not touch the facepiece to avoid contaminating the hands
17. Either discard the respirator or save for [reuse](#) by placing in a breathable container or on a designated hook labeled with the name of the clinician using the respirator. [More about discarding the respirator](#)

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