Nursing Skills

Standard Precautions

Procedure

PROCEDURE STEPS

1. Perform hand hygiene using either an alcohol-based hand rub until dry or soap and water, rubbing the hands together for at least 20 seconds

2. When visibly soiled or when caring for a patient suspected of infection with a spore-forming pathogen, hands should be washed with soap and water rather than cleaned using an alcohol-based hand rub.

3. Don appropriate PPE, prior to patient contact.

4. Don a protective gown if contamination of clothing is anticipated.

5. Don face mask if there is a risk for splashing or spraying of blood or body fluids, or when inserting a catheter or injecting materials in the epidural/subdural space to prevent contamination of the site by the clinician's oropharyngeal secretions.

6. Don eye protection or face shield if there is a risk for splashing or spraying of blood or body fluids.

7. Don gloves if contact with blood or body fluids, nonintact skin, mucous membranes, or contaminated surfaces is anticipated.

8. Apply and remove gloves carefully to avoid puncturing or tearing.

9. Perform hand hygiene and don a new pair of gloves when moving from a dirty to a clean body area or activity (for example, after assisting with toileting, perform hand hygiene and apply a new set of gloves before providing oral care).

10. Do not wash gloves.
11. Maintain safe injection practices

12. Follow general aseptic non-touch technique (ANTT) when preparing or administering medications

13. Clean the top of the medication vial to be accessed with 70% alcohol prior to use

14. Avoid the use of multi-dose vials for > 1 patient

15. Do not reinsert a used syringe (with or without a new needle) into a medication container, use a single-dose vial for > 1 patient, reuse a syringe to administer medications to > 1 patient, or reuse I.V. administration sets

16. Dispose of sharps at the point of care in an appropriate point-of-care sharps container that is puncture-resistant, leak-proof, and sealable

17. Adhere to facility protocols regarding the safe handling and disposal of contaminated materials. More about contaminated materials

18. Adhere to respiratory hygiene or cough etiquette. More about respiratory hygiene or cough etiquette

**Contaminated Materials**

**CONTAMINATED MATERIALS**

- Handle contaminated equipment in a manner that prevents transfer of pathogens to the clinician or the environment
- Promptly dispose of items that are soiled with blood or body fluids in a designated biohazard bag or a facility-approved soiled linen container
- Take contaminated, reusable items to the appropriate location for cleaning and disinfection or sterilization
- Verify that the environment is routinely cleaned and disinfected, particularly those areas that are most likely to be contaminated

**Respiratory Hygiene or Cough Etiquette**

**RESPIRATORY HYGIENE OR COUGH ETIQUETTE**

- Offer masks to symptomatic patients and visitors
- Provide supplies/resources for patients and visitors to perform hand hygiene as needed
- Educate symptomatic patients and visitors to cover the nose and mouth with tissue or wear face mask when coughing/sneezing
- Educate symptomatic patients and visitors to promptly dispose of used tissues and wash hands thoroughly
- Advise symptomatic patients and visitors to sit at least 3 feet away from others if coughing