



## 2016 e newsletter # 2 - March

### Your Transmission Based Precautions Policy

In each of the 10 e newsletters for 2016, I am previewing a policy template - how does your policy compare? Each of my 14 policy templates includes: procedures, resources, contacts, references and further notes is available for purchase.

#### 1. PREAMBLE

- 1.1 Transmission-based precautions (formerly additional precautions) are used in addition to Standard Precautions when treating patients known / suspected of being infected or colonised with epidemiologically significant microorganisms not contained by standard precautions alone, e.g. measles, gastroenteritis, influenza, pertussis.
- 1.2 Transmission-based precautions include: patient isolation, patient use of mask. It includes Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff i.e. gloves, aprons/gowns, respirator/surgical masks and goggles/safety glasses, even when not in direct contact with patient but according to suspected infectious agent and mode of transmission.
- 1.3 There are current Australian national guidelines<sup>1</sup> to inform on when transmission-based precautions are required. This policy follows these guidelines.

#### 2. POLICY

- 2.1 All staff including reception staff, receive training in understanding and applying transmission based precautions at induction by .....e.g. **Practice Nurse**
- 2.2 All staff undergo competency checking annually for correct order of use of PPE by.....e.g. **Practice Nurse**.
- 2.3 Ongoing education & updates for all staff in identifying patients requiring isolation and/or a mask as part of transmission based precautions are provided .....e.g. **annually by an external provider**
- 2.4 Transmission based precautions are used for suspect gastro, measles, flu etc. Patients known or suspected to have a multi-resistant organism are not isolated.
- 2.5 A flu kit with suitable protective equipment is provided for pandemic influenza or equivalent. Staff are familiar with its contents and use.
- 2.6 Protocols to reduce cross infection include incorporating updates/advice from the health department e.g. measles. Also included is staff awareness of severely immunosuppressed patients not waiting in the waiting room e.g. leukaemias, transplants etc.
- 2.7 Reception staff are resourced and have access to handrub and detergent wipes. The patient waiting area has signage, handrub and a carefully placed bin, tissues & vomit bags. A vomit bag is provided in the patient toilet.
- 2.8 Procedures, resources, references and notes to assist policy interpretation for transmission-based precautions are found attached to this policy.

*To then give your policy life, follow with protocols for suspect measles etc*

<sup>1</sup> Australian Guidelines for the prevention and control of infection in healthcare (NHMRC 2010).