Infection Control Care Plan for a patient with *Clostridium difficile*

**Statement**: This Care Plan should be used with patients who are suspected of or are known to have *Clostridium difficile*. This Care Plan should be followed to reduce the risk of transmitting *Clostridium difficile* to other patients, staff, carers and visitors. If it is not possible to follow this Care Plan, please notify a member of the Infection Control Team who will carry out a risk assessment on how best to care for this patient.

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| 1    |    | Accommodation                    | • Isolate the patient in a single room with *en suite* facilities. If *en suite* is not available ensure access to own commode.  
• Place isolation sign on outside of the door.  
• A risk assessment should be carried out by the clinical team to determine the suitability of the patient for isolation. If not suitable a daily review of patient suitability should be documented in case notes.  
• Door must be kept closed. If this is not possible document the reason in the case notes.  
• Precautions should continue until the patient has been asymptomatic for 48 hours and bowel movements have returned to normal, or on the advice of the IPCT. |                                  |                                    |                 |                                |
| 2    |    | Hand Hygiene                     | Alcohol gel is not effective against *Clostridium difficile*!                      |                                  |                                    |                 |                                |
|      |    |                                  | • Hand hygiene must be performed with liquid soap and water after contact with the patient, their environment or equipment and on leaving isolation room.  
• Use gloves to prevent hand contamination. Decontaminate hands after removal of gloves with liquid soap and water.  
• Ensure hand washing facilities are offered to patient after using toilet, prior to eating etc. |                                  |                                    |                 |                                |
| 3    |    | Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) | • Disposable aprons and gloves must be worn for all direct contact with the patient or patient’s environment/equipment.  
• Gloves and aprons are single use and must be disposed of into the clinical waste stream after use and then hands must be decontaminated with liquid soap and water. |                                  |                                    |                 |                                |
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| 4    |    | Decontamination of Patient Equipment| • Where possible equipment such as chairs, hoist sling etc should be kept for use by that patient only and kept in the room.  
• If reusable equipment is taken out of the room it must be cleaned with 1000ppm chlorine based detergent (10,000ppm if contaminated with blood).  
• Crockery/ cutlery can be removed from the room and washed in the normal way.  
• Keep items and equipment to a minimum and use single use disposable where possible. |                                |                        |                 |                                  |
| 5    |    | Specimens                           | • The patient is managed according to their symptoms.  
Clearance samples are not required for *Clostridium difficile*. |                                |                        |                 |                                  |
| 6    |    | Linen                               | • Place used linen in water soluble bag, then clear polythene bag, then into the white laundry bag.  
• Clean linen should be taken into the room when required. Do not store clean linen in room. |                                |                        |                 |                                  |
| 7    |    | Waste                               | • Dispose of all non-sharps waste into a clinical waste bag inside room.  
• When the waste bag is ¾ full (and daily), fasten securely and label with ward identification. |                                |                        |                 |                                  |
| 8    |    | Environmental cleaning              | • Advise domestic staff that the patient is being isolated without breaching patient confidentiality.  
• Floor, surfaces, sink, toilet etc. must be cleaned twice daily by domestic staff using chlorine based detergent, e.g. Actichlor Plus. Refer to SOP Twice Daily Clean of Isolation Rooms.  
[www.nhsggc.org.uk/infectioncontrol](http://www.nhsggc.org.uk/infectioncontrol)  
• Nursing staff are responsible for the cleaning of patient related equipment twice daily using chlorine based detergent, e.g. Actichlor Plus.  
• When room vacated nursing staff should clean patient related equipment with chlorine based detergent, e.g. Actichlor Plus and remove it from room. Domestic staff should then carry out a thorough terminal clean of the room. Refer to SOP Terminal Clean of Isolation Room.  
[www.nhsggc.org.uk/infectioncontrol](http://www.nhsggc.org.uk/infectioncontrol) |                                |                        |                 |                                  |

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| 9    | 1  | Information for Patient and Carers                  | - Ensure patient / relative is given a *Clostridium difficile* patient information leaflet and is also given an opportunity to discuss. Document in clinical notes.  
- Ensure that all persons visiting the patient are aware of the reason for isolation precautions.  
- Relatives with infectious symptoms must be instructed not to visit until at least 48 hours free of symptoms.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                |           |                               |                                   |
| 10   | 2  | Visitor Restrictions                                | - Visitors must be instructed to report to nurse in charge before entering room.  
- Aprons and Gloves are NOT required to be worn by visitors but they should be instructed to wash their hands using soap and water on leaving the room.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                |           |                               |                                   |
| 11   | 3  | Personal Patient Clothing                           | - Ensure laundry leaflet is given to relatives taking laundry home. Document in clinical notes.  
- All patient laundry should be placed into a water soluble domestic bag and then a patient clothing bag  
- While patient is symptomatic, they should be advised to wear a hospital gown                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                |           |                               |                                   |
| 12   | 4  | Transfer to another Department or Hospital          | - Patients with *Clostridium difficile* must not be moved to another ward/ department without prior consultation with a member of the Infection Control Team except in a clinical emergency.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                |           |                               |                                   |
| 13   | 5  | Psychological impact of being isolated              | Patients in isolation may be prone to feelings of loneliness and depression as well as feeling stigmatised. These feelings can be lessened by:  
- Ensuring patient understands need for isolation and encouraged to express concerns.  
- Provide verbal and/ or written information about the reason including leaflet if available.  
- Ensure patient has items to relieve boredom and provide distraction, e.g. TV, newspapers.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                |           |                               |                                   |

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| 14   |    | Documentation       | • Commence stool chart and ensure all bowel motions are recorded including consistency as per Bristol Stool Chart.  
• While symptomatic, a severity score must be documented by medical staff in the clinical notes daily.                                      |                               |           |                               |                                      |
| 15   |    | Toileting Facilities| • Where possible, the patient should be allocated their own toilet or commode.  
• If a commode is in use, it must be decontaminated after each use with chlorine based detergent (1:1000ppm).  
• When handling bedpans wear disposable gloves and apron and decontaminate hands with soap and water on removal. |                               |           |                               |                                      |

**Documentation Control** *IPCT Only*

- **Date of issue**: February 2015
- **Date of review**: February 2017

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