

**Transmission Based Precautions Literature Review:
Management of Patient Care Equipment**

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Title:	Transmission Based Precautions Literature Review: Management of Patient Care Equipment
Purpose:	To inform the Transmission Based Precautions chapter of the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual on patient care equipment in order to facilitate the prevention and control of HAIs in NHS Scotland hospital settings.
Target audience:	All NHS Scotland staff involved in the prevention and control of infection in the hospital setting.
Circulation list:	Infection Control Managers, Infection Prevention and Control Teams, Public Health Teams
Description:	<p>This literature review examines the available professional literature on the management of patient care equipment.</p> <p>For the purposes of this review the hospital setting is deemed to include: all services, clinics, or departments in the primary, secondary and tertiary hospital settings – for example, Specialised Centres, District General, Ambulatory Care, Day, Community, Children’s.</p> <p>The review did not examine primary care settings, for example, Health Centres, GP surgeries, General Dental Practices, or patient’s own homes.</p>
Update/review schedule:	HPS TBP’s are updated in real time with changes made to recommendations as required.
Cross reference:	<p>Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICP) Literature Review: Management of patient care equipment in the hospital setting</p> <p>http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/haic/ic/publicationsdetail.aspx?id=50114</p>
Feedback/contact details:	nss.hpsinfectioncontrol@nhs.net
Update level:	<p>Practice – <i>Initial review therefore currently not applicable</i></p> <p>Research – <i>Initial review therefore currently not applicable</i></p>

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1. Objectives

The aim is to review the extant scientific literature regarding management of patient care equipment to form evidence based recommendations for practice. The specific objectives of the review are to determine:

- What considerations are required for management of patient care equipment when applying TBPs in addition to those outlined in SICPs when applying TBPs?

Note:

Transmission Based Precautions (TBPs) are measures that may be required in addition to Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs). It is assumed, for the purpose of this literature review, that all SICPs are adhered to, and therefore are not the focus of this literature review and the associated recommendations.

2. Recommendations

What considerations are required for management of patient care equipment in addition to those outlined in SICPs?

Single-use disposable patient care equipment should be used for patients known or suspected to be infected with microorganisms spread by the airborne (aerosol), droplet, or contact routes.

(Good Practice Point (GPP))

Where the use of single-use disposable equipment is not practical, dedicated patient care equipment should be used for patients suspected or known to be infected with microorganisms spread by the airborne (aerosol), droplet or contact routes. This equipment must be adequately decontaminated prior to use on another patient.

(AGREE rating: Recommend)

3. Discussion

A complete review of management of non-invasive reusable communal patient care equipment is found within the Chapter 1: SICPs literature reviews and is available via the link

<http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/haic/ic/publicationsdetail.aspx?id=50114>.

This review concentrates on any additional considerations and precautions required for the management of non-invasive reusable communal patient care equipment in addition to those outlined in SICPs.

What considerations are required for management of patient care equipment in addition to those outlined in SICPs?

It is recommended that single-use disposable patient care equipment is used for patients known or suspected to be infected with microorganisms spread by the airborne (aerosol), droplet, or contact routes.¹

(Good Practice Point (GPP))

The use of dedicated non-critical care equipment (e.g. stethoscopes, blood pressure cuffs, electronic thermometer) for patients infected with microorganisms spread by the airborne (aerosol), droplet, or contact routes has been shown to be effective in preventing cross-transmission of infection.²

It is therefore recommended that where the use of single-use disposable equipment is not practical, dedicated patient care equipment should be used.² This equipment must be appropriately decontaminated prior to use on another patient.^{1;2}

(AGREE rating: Recommend)

Implications for research

The frequency of decontamination required for specific items of patient care equipment is not well described in the literature. Further work is required in this area.

References

- (1) Isolating patients with healthcare associated infection - A summary of best practice. Department of Health 2010 [cited 2011 May 18]; Available from: URL:
http://hcai.dh.gov.uk/files/2011/03/Document_Isolation_Best_Practice_FINAL_100917.pdf
- (2) Siegel JD, Rhinehart E, Jackson M, Chiarello L. Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings 2007. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention 2007 [cited 2011 Sep 19]; Available from: URL:
<http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/2007IP/2007isolationPrecautions.html>