

Routine Practices and Additional Precautions in All Health Care Settings

Level	Manual	Section	Originating Date	Revised	Reviewed
Regional	Infection Prevention and Control	Clinical Services	2014-Mar-26	N/A	N/A
Scope	Applies to all health care providers in the region				

Approved by: Glenda Short, Director Clinical Programs & Services

DEFINITIONS:

Additional Precautions: Additional measures implemented when Routine Practices alone may not interrupt transmission of an infectious agent.

- Are based on the mode of transmission of infectious agents: Contact, Droplet, or Airborne transmission.
- Used in addition to Routine Practices (not in place of).
- Initiated based on condition/clinical presentation (syndrome) and/or specific etiology (diagnosis).
- Some microorganisms may be transmitted by more than one route necessitating more than one type of Additional Precautions (e.g., Airborne/Contact, Droplet/Contact).

Client: Refers to an individual and/or their family/care provider who accesses and/or receives health care related services from a Prairie Mountain Health facility or program. Clients may be patients in an acute care setting, residents in a personal care home, or clients in a community program or facility.

Health Care Provider: Refers to all employees (including contracted individuals, students, and volunteers) of Prairie Mountain Health who provide direct care or indirect non-contact care as a result of their duties/tasks of their position. A health care provider spans the continuum of services/care that a client may receive from a Prairie Mountain Health facility or program.

Infection Control Professional/Practitioner (ICP): A health care professional with the responsibility for functions of the Infection Prevention and Control Program.

Infection Prevention and Control (IP&C): Evidence-based practices and procedures that, when applied consistently in health care settings, can prevent or reduce the risk of transmission of microorganisms to health care providers, other clients and visitors.

Routine Practices: A comprehensive set of IP&C measures that have been developed for use in the routine care of all clients at all times in all health care settings. Routine Practices aim to minimize or prevent health care-associated infections in all individuals in the health care setting and are a standard of practice recommended by the Public Health Agency of Canada.

POLICY

Prairie Mountain Health (PMH) supports the use of Routine Practices along with Additional Precautions, when required, to promote the health and safety of all clients receiving health care-related services within all facilities and programs as well as PMH health care providers.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- All PMH health care providers shall consistently apply Routine Practices and Additional Precautions in accordance with PMH IP&C guidelines.
- All PMH health care providers will, at a minimum, upon initial orientation and with every two years of employment complete standardized PMH education and training on Routine Practices and Additional Precautions.

PROCEDURE

- Routine Practices are followed during the care of all clients and whenever the client environment is encountered.
- Health care providers refer to current PMH IP&C Guidelines, as required, during the care and management of clients.
- Additional Precautions are established as soon as client assessment indicates a possible communicable disease or clinical presentation that requires additional measures (e.g., Contact, Droplet or Airborne Precautions).
- Signage specific to the type(s) of Additional Precautions must be visibly posted (e.g., Contact Precautions [PMH039], Airborne Precautions [PMH053], Droplet Precautions [PMH052], Airborne/Contact Precautions [PMH051], Droplet/Contact Precautions [PMH038]).
- Health care providers inform an ICP by telephone when clients are placed on Additional Precautions.
- Health care providers consult with an ICP or designate before discontinuation of Additional Precautions.

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

[PMH039, Contact Precautions](#)

[PMH053, Airborne Precautions](#)

[PMH052, Droplet Precautions](#)

[PMH051, Airborne/Contact Precautions](#)

[PMH038, Droplet/Contact Precautions](#)

[PPG-00815, Routine Practices](#)

REFERENCES

Manitoba Health. (April 2012). *Routine Practices and Additional Precautions: Preventing the Transmission of Infection in Health Care*. Retrieved from <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/docs/ipc/rpap.pdf>.

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion, Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC). (November 2012). *Routine Practices and Additional Precautions In All Health Care Settings, 3rd edition*. Retrieved from http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/RPAP_All_HealthCare_Settings_Eng2012.pdf.

Winnipeg Regional Health Authority. (August 2013). Policy: *Routine Practices for Reducing the Risk of Infection Transmission*. Retrieved from http://www.wrha.mb.ca/extranet/ipc/files/manuals/acutecare/ManualHospital_Full.pdf.