Role of Respiratory Therapist in Infection Prevention: Routine Practices and Additional Precautions





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## **OVERVIEW**

- Introduction to Infection Prevention
  - Key Concepts / Background / Strategies = Practices & Precautions
- Definition of HAI
  - Sites / Causes / Factors
- Sources of Infection
  Microorganisms / Transmission by example
- Chain of Infection
  - Medical asepsis / Precautions/ Spread of Infection / Breaking the chain / Generally and Specifically
- Microorganisms...what is coming next?
- Final words...

# **Infection Prevention**

Key concepts

- Basic principles of infection prevention
- Conditions that allow infections to be transmitted to others
- How to stop the spread of infectious diseases
- What the role of the CDC isolation guidelines are in preventing hospital acquired infections (HAI)

# Background

- People receiving health and medical care are at risk of becoming infected unless precautions are taken to prevent infection.
- Hospital-acquired (Nosocomial) Infections are a significant problem throughout the world
- Most of these infections can be prevented with readily available, relatively inexpensive strategies by:

# Strategies by...

- Adhering to recommended infection prevention practices, especially hand hygiene and gloves
- Paying attention to well-established processes for cleaning soiled equipment and environment
- Improving safety in operating rooms and other highrisk areas where the most serious and frequent injuries and exposures to infectious agents occur.

# **Risky Business?**

- Infection Prevention is for everyone
  - Patients
  - Staff
  - Visitors
- Healthcare workers, including support staff who work in these settings also are at risk of exposure to serious, potentially life-threatening infections.

### Definition: What's meant by HAI?

- Hospital Acquired Infection (HAI)
- Any infection causing illness that wasn't present or in it's incubation period when admitted to the hospital
- Infections are considered HAI if they first appear 48 hours or more after admit

# Hospital-acquired Infection why worry?

- 5-10% of U. S. patients will get infected during a stay in hospital
- Effects of Hospital acquired infection
  - Increased mortality & morbidity
  - Prolonged hospital stay
  - Increased use of antibiotic = increase resistance
  - Increased staffing costs
  - Decreased public confidence in hospitals & doctors



# **HAI Causes**

- <u>Endogenous</u> sources are body sites, such as the skin, nose, mouth, gastrointestinal (GI) tract, that are normally inhabited by microorganisms
- <u>Exogenous</u> sources are those external to the patient, such as patient care personnel, visitors, patient care equipment, medical devices, or the health care environment.

## **HAI Factors**

- Non compliance to precautions and Hand Hygiene (HH)
- Increasing number of people with compromised immune systems
- Emerging organisms
- Increasing bacterial resistance



# **Microorganisms?**

- Microorganisms are the causative agents of infection.
- They include bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites.
- They live everywhere in our environment.
- We normally carry them on skin and in the upper respiratory, intestinal and genital tracts.
- In addition, microorganisms live in animals, plants, soil, air and water.

## **Transmission of Infection**

- ...common example
- Salmonella gastro-enteritis
- Reservoir
  - more commonly
    - animal gut flora
  - less commonly
  - human cases & carriers
- Source or Vehicle
- food from affected animals
- contaminated food



# They Live Everywhere...

- For Infection Prevention purposes, bacteria can be further divided into three categories: vegetative (e.g., staphylococcus, c diff) mycobacteria (e.g., tuberculosis) endospores (e.g., c diff).
  - Of all the common infectious agents, <u>endospores</u> are most difficult to kill due to their protective coating.

# Pathogenic

- Some microorganisms, however, are more pathogenic than others, that is, they are more likely to cause disease.
- Given the right circumstances, all microorganisms may cause infection, such as when transmitted to a patient





# **Can We Break The Chain?**

- We maintain the immediate health care environment of the patient.
- Because we provide care for a variety of patients, the risk of contamination from <u>pathogenic</u> microorganisms is increased.
- The practice of <u>medical asepsis</u> and <u>standard</u> <u>precautions</u> provides us with techniques for destroying or containing pathogens and for preventing contamination to other people or to bedside materials and equipment.

# **Medical Asepsis**

- Techniques used to prevent, reduce, and control the spread of pathogenic microorganism.
- The techniques used to maintain medical asepsis include *hand hygiene*, *gloving*, *gowning* and wearing facial *masks* when appropriate.

#### **Routine Practices & Additional Precautions**

- Standard precautions combines universal precautions and body substance isolation.
- Standard precautions alert the health care worker to patient situations that require special barrier techniques.
- These barrier techniques are used when working with any patient where potential contact with blood or body fluid exists.

#### **Transmission Based Precautions**

- Isolation of infectious patients
  - Whenever you assess a patient think:
    - does this patient need to be isolated?
  - Isolation Precautions
    - Contact isolation Use of gloves and gowns
    - Airborne isolation Use of PR mask
  - Droplet isolation Use of procedural mask
  - Consult
    - Infection prevention specialist for advice
    - Infection prevention manual for isolation protocols
    - Contains advice on meningitis, TB, MRSA, hepatitis, VRE, and lots more
    - Including critters!!



## **Break that Chain...**

- Remove reservoirs & sources
  - Human-to-human
    - Isolate patients when warranted
    - Effectively clean patients
      - showers, 2% CHG bath cloths, oral care
    - Head of Bed to prevent aspiration
  - Environment
    - Wash in Wash out (stops transmission)
    - Unit cleaning (Isolation signs stay on door)
    - Equipment must be wiped down between patients

# ...and

- Increasing host resistance
  - Good nutrition
  - Vaccinate (Influenza, Pneumonia)
  - Correct underlying defects
    - Control diabetes
  - Restore normal physiology as quickly as possible through regular ASSESSMENTS
    - Remove lines, catheters etc.
  - Proper Oral Care

# Assessment and Follow up!

- "Urinary catheter indicators" Expectation is that this is completed at least q24 hours. Completion requires follow through with advocating for removal if a low score is obtained (meaning it is not indicated).
- "Oral Care" risk assessment. This assessment identifies which oral care products are most appropriate for the patient
   and that it is performed.

# **Hospital Staff**

- Your first responsibility is to your patients
  - **Do not work** if you have diarrhea, or a flulike illness, a sore throat, or if you may be incubating a viral illness
  - Vaccination (Influenza and Pertussis)
  - Practice and Encourage cough etiquette
  - Hold your co-workers accountable
  - Practice good HH

# **Control of Cross-Infection**

- Hand Hygiene is for all...
  - Wash In and Wash Out
  - Alcohol hand rubs/gels/foam provide a convenient alternative to soap and water
  - Hand Washing must be performed when hands are visibly soiled



# **Common Hospital Pathogens**

- Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus
  - MRSA
  - Infection Requires Vancomycin treatment
  - Identification of Colonization (Screening)
- Vancomycin-resistant enterococcus
  - VRE, includes E. faecalis and E. faecium
  - If also multi-drug resistant treatment can be difficult

# ...continued

- Clostridium difficile
  - Causes Antibiotic-associated colitis
  - Can cause outbreaks in hospitals
  - Patients must be isolated
- Multi-Drug Resistant Organisms (MDRO)
  - Require treatment with expensive drugs
  - Patients must be isolated
  - Can cause outbreaks (Acinetobacter)
- And what's coming next???????





•CRE: Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobcateriaceae

- These bugs are resistant to powerful antibiotics (Carbapenems)
  - Last line antibiotics reserved for severe infections
- "CRE produce enzymes that break down carbapenems and make them ineffective"

cdc.gov 2014



# Which bugs will cause this risk?

Enterobacteriaceae is a family of bugs that include:

- Klebsiella / e coli
- Serratia / Proteus /Citrobacter/Enterobacter
- Pseudomonas and Acinetobacter are other HIGH ALERT MDROs (Multiple Drug Resistant Organisms) not CRE
- Some reports say the morality can be as high as 50%
- The lab department will flag these organisms and alert the units to promote early Contact Precautions

# How does it Spread?

- CRE bacteria are most often spread person-to-person in healthcare settings
  - Particularly contact with wounds or stool
- The bugs can enter the body through IV catheters, urinary catheters, or wounds



# **Precaution Insight**

- Early contact precaution is required
- Patients should remain in precautions until removed by the Infection Prevention Team
- Gloves to enter and gown/gloves for contact with patient or surroundings
- Remember to dedicate equipment in the room and completely wipe equipment that must be utilized between patients





# Do You Know the Answer?

What is the most important intervention to promote and prevent the spread of infection?

- A) Limit visitors
- B) Identify and isolate early
- C) Practice good hand hygiene
- D) B and C

# Do You Know the Answer?

When entering a room to perform respiratory treatment for a CRE patient what strategy should be used to enter the room?

- a. Gloves only
- b. Gown and gloves
- c. None because the wound is contained
- d. Gown, gloves and mask

#### ...and some final words • In a galaxy far away... I promise to wash my hands between patients · I promise to wash my hands between patients I promise to wash my hands between patients · I promise to wash my hands between patients An extract from the work I promise to wash my hands between patients I promise to wash my hands between patients book of Dr Unknown, after · I promise to wash my hands between patients I promise to wash my hands between patients being observed NOT I promise to wash my hands between patients performing Hand Hygiene I promise to wash my hands between patients · I promise to wash my hands between patients when coming out of a I promise to wash my hands between patients · I promise to wash my hands between patients room... I promise to wash my hands between patients · I promise to wash my hands between patients · I promise to wash my hands between patients · I promise to wash my hands between patients I promise to wash my hands between patients If only I could... I promise to wash my hands between patients I promise to wash my hands between patients Loromise to wash my hands between patients. I promise to wash my hands between patients...