Performing a Risk Assessment Related to Routine Practices and Additional Precautions

An individual assessment of each client/patient/resident’s potential risk of transmission of microorganisms must be made by all health care providers and other staff who come into contact with them. Based on that risk assessment and a risk assessment of the task, one may determine appropriate intervention and interaction strategies, such as hand hygiene, waste management, use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and client/patient/resident placement, that will reduce the risk of transmission of microorganisms to and from the individual. When a client/patient/resident has undiagnosed symptoms or signs of an infection, interventions must be informed by organizational requirements.

Risk assessment steps to be performed by a Health Care Provider to determine an individual’s risk of transmission of infectious agents and the rationale for associated protective measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERFORM A RISK ASSESSMENT</th>
<th>RATIONALE FOR ACTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Decision #1:</strong> Do I need protection for what I am about to do because there is a risk of exposure to blood and body fluids, mucous membranes, non-intact skin or contaminated equipment?</td>
<td><strong>Intervention and Interaction #1:</strong> I must follow Routine Practices because there is a risk that I might expose myself to an infection that is transmitted via this route, or expose the client/patient/resident to my microorganisms (see algorithms).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Individual Risk Assessment #1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Decision #2:</strong> Do I need protection for what I am about to do because the client/patient/resident has undiagnosed symptoms of infection?</td>
<td><strong>Intervention and Interaction #2:</strong> I must alert someone about the client/patient/resident who has symptoms so that a diagnosis may be made, and I must determine what organizational requirements are to be put in place to protect myself and others.</td>
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<td><strong>Individual Risk Assessment #2</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Decision #3:</strong> What are the organizational requirements for this client/patient/resident who has an identified infection?</td>
<td><strong>Intervention and Interaction #3:</strong> I must follow the procedures proscribed for this infection to protect myself and others (see Appendix N).</td>
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<td><strong>Organizational Risk Assessment</strong></td>
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For more information please contact Public Health Ontario’s Infection Prevention and Control Department at ipac@oahpp.ca or visit www.publichealthontario.ca
Routine Practices Risk Assessment Algorithm for All Client/Patient/Resident Interactions

START

Assess the anticipated interaction with the client/patient/resident (C/P/R) and/or their environment

Will I be exposing myself to a splash or spray of blood, excretions or secretions?

NO

YES

Will I have contact with the C/P/R’s environment?

NO

YES

Will my hands be exposed to blood, excretions, secretions or contaminated items?

NO

YES

Will my face be exposed to a splash, spray, cough or sneeze?

NO

YES

Will my clothing or skin be exposed to splashes/sprays or items contaminated with blood, excretions, secretions?

NO

YES

Follow specific Additional Precautions

Does the C/P/R have a known infection or symptoms of an infection?

NO

No further action required

Yes

Wear a gown

Wear facial protection

Wear gloves

Perform hand hygiene