


NTHSSA-WIDE POLICY	
Title: Infection Prevention and Control Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA)	Policy Number: 12-45-V1
Applicable Domain: Infection Prevention and Control	
Additional Domain(s): Occupational Health and Safety	
Effective Date: 16/03/2020	Next Review Date: 16/03/2023
Issuing Authority: NTHSSA CEO	Date Approved: 16/03/2020
Accreditation Canada Applicable Standard: 	

GUIDING PRINCIPLE:

Due to the nature of care provided in all healthcare settings, there is an inherent risk for the transmission of **infectious organisms**. Performing a Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA) is a required component of Routine Precautions.

PURPOSE/RATIONALE:

PCRA needs to be conducted with all patients/clients, for all care and at all times. This allows staff to decide what, if any personal protective equipment is required to protect the healthcare worker and to prevent the transmission of infectious organisms.

DEFINITIONS:

Additional Precautions: (i.e., Droplet Precautions, Contact Precautions, Airborne Precautions) necessary, in addition to Routine Precautions for certain pathogen or clinical presentations. These precautions are based on the method of transmission (e.g., droplet, contact, airborne).

Hand Hygiene: A general term referring to any action of hand cleaning. Hand hygiene related to the removal of visible soil and removal or killing of transient microorganisms from the hands. Hand hygiene may be accomplished using soap and running water or an alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR).

Infectious Organism: A microorganism, i.e. bacterium, fungus, parasite, virus or prion, which is capable of invading body tissues and multiplying.

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Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Clothing or equipment worn by staff or provided to clients/patients/visitors for personal protection against hazards to prevent contamination of skin, mucous membranes or clothing in order to prevent the transmission from patient-to-patient.

Risk Assessment: An evaluation of the interaction of the health care provider, the client/patient and the client/patient environment to assess and analyze the potential for exposure to infectious disease. ¹

Routine Precautions: are based on the premise that all clients/patients are potentially infectious, even when asymptomatic, and the same safe standards of practice should be used routinely with all clients in all health care areas.

SCOPE/APPLICABILITY:

This policy applies to all Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA) staff.

PROCEDURE:

1. Assessment for the risk of transmission of infectious organisms must be conducted before every contact with a client/patient or their environment.
2. Healthcare staff need to ask the questions:
 - What is the task I am about to perform?
 - What is the risk of direct exposure to splashes, sprays, blood and/or body fluids, excretions or secretions?
 - What is the risk of exposure to the above by environmental contact?
 - Has the client/patient been flagged as being on specific Additional Precautions e.g. Droplet, Contact, Airborne
3. Staff should select PPE appropriate to the risk*.
 - Gloves - If risk of hands coming in contact with mucous membranes, non-intact skin, blood and body fluids or contaminated items.
 - Gown – If risk of clothing or skin becoming soiled from sprays/splashes or items contaminated with blood and body fluids

¹ <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/bp-rpap-healthcare-settings.pdf?la=en>

- Mask and eye protection – If risk of eyes, mouth, or nose being splashed or sprayed with blood and body fluids are within 2 meters of a coughing or vomiting patient

* PPE selected may be required in addition to PPE indicated by specific precautions which are already in place, e.g. Airborne precautions do not require gown, however, if a risk assessment indicates a gown is required, this should be selected in addition to the Airborne Precautions.

4. If the point of care risk assessment does not identify the need for any additional PPE and the patient/client is not flagged as being on specific additional precautions, perform Hand Hygiene as indicated by the 4 moments of hand hygiene and complete task following routine practices.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

N/A

CROSS-REFERENCES:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

Routine Practise Risk Assessment Algorithm for All Patient Interactions

REFERENCES:

Alberta Health Services Infection Prevention and Control, *Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA)*, July 2018

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/ipc/hi-ipc-routine-practices-algorithm-cc.pdf>

Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC) *Routine Practices and Additional Precautions In All Health Care Settings, 3rd edition*, Nov 2012,

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/bp-rpap-healthcare-settings.pdf?la=en>

APPROVAL:

March 16, 2020

Date



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Routine Practices Risk Assessment Algorithm for All Patient Interactions

