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|  | **INFECTION CONTROL****GUIDELINES OF PRACTICE** | **Number: IC 16.314** |
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| **PRECAUTION GUIDELINES FOR RSV**  |

**PURPOSE**

To prevent the spread of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) within the hospital.

**SEASONAL RANGE OF THE DISEASE**

Precautions are posted in the hospital according to documented cases.

 **PROCEDURE**

1. The pediatric patient is tested for the presence of RSV antigen present in the nasopharynx prior to admission for any of the following:
2. There is sufficient clinical evidence of upper or lower respiratory infection to warrant suspicion of RSV.
3. The child has been exposed to RSV within the last 72 hours (average incubation 2-8 days).
4. The Emergency Department or attending physician orders the RSV test.
5. The patient testing positive for RSV is transported directly to the nursing unit and placed into contact precautions.
6. All persons entering the room of a patient known to have RSV must wear a new isolation gown and gloves.
7. Any item taken into the room must remain there until the patient is discharged and the room has been terminally cleaned. Examples are: tympanic thermometer, stethoscope and blood pressure cuffs.
8. If there is more than one patient in the room with RSV, each must have their own separate supplies.
9. Visitors are to be kept at a minimum.
10. Staff caring for a patient with RSV should avoid providing care to:
	1. immunocompromised patients
	2. children less than 2 years of age who are not infected with RSV
	3. patients with congenital heart disease.
11. Adherence to Standard and Contact precautions are essential in controlling this infectious agent.

**ATTACHMENTS:**  N/A

**REFERENCES:** Centers for Disease Control (CDC). <http://www.cdc.gov>.

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