

## Admissions and Dispositions

These policies and procedures have been established to provide a workable guide for hospital staff for the care of patients with potentially communicable diseases.

### Staff

- Handwashing. Hands are washed between patient contact and after attending to personal needs.
- Employee Health. Employees having skin lesions, diarrhea, or respiratory tract infections must report to their supervisor; who will determine appropriate action. In the event of inadvertent exposure to patients with communicable diseases (meningitis, TB, varicella, measles, mumps), the employee will report the exposure to the supervisor who will determine appropriate action.
- Infection Control in-service will be presented as part of orientation to all new employees.

**Isolation.** Follow guidelines for isolation found in the Infection Control Manual.

- Admission. Patients with known or suspected communicable diseases will have bed assignments done over the phone and the patient will be transported to their room from the clinic or Emergency Room as quickly as possible. Staff will do the admission process on the assigned nursing unit.
- Patients with a diagnosis of a communicable disease spread by the airborne route (i.e., Tuberculosis, varicella, and measles) will be placed in a negative pressure ventilation room. The Infection Control Nurse serves as a consultant regarding potentially infectious patients.
- Disposition. All patients with suspected communicable respiratory diseases required to come to the Admissions/Dispositions Office for “Records Processing” only, will do the following:
  - Will be separated from others.
  - Will wear a mask while in the office.
  - Will have head of the line privileges.