

Radiology/Nuclear Medicine

The Radiology Department provides diagnostic and therapeutic procedures for patient care. Diagnostic procedures performed by the department include invasive techniques with potential for transmission of microorganisms and diagnostic procedures of the gastrointestinal tract may produce fecal contamination of the environment.

Infection Control Practices.

- Staff
 - Hands are to be washed before and after patient contact, after gloves are removed, and before performing any invasive procedure.
 - Personnel who come in contact with blood and body fluids, non-intact skin, mucous membranes, or items or surfaces contaminated with body fluids will wear disposable gloves. Gloves will always be changed between patients and when visibly soiled. Hands will be washed after gloves are removed.
 - Personal protective equipment (PPE) will be readily available and worn for protection, when indicated.
 - Personnel will ensure a clean and neat patient care environment.
 - Eating and drinking are not allowed in patient care areas.
 - All sinks will have a functional soap dispenser with soap and paper towels. Areas without adequate handwashing facilities will have available Hibistat towellettes or an appropriate alternative.
- Employee health
 - Employees having signs/symptoms of infection (i.e., skin lesions, diarrhea, URI) must report to their supervisor. The supervisor will in turn, refer them to Occupational Health where appropriate action will be determined.
 - In the event of inadvertent exposure to patients with a communicable disease or an occupational injury (i.e., needlestick), the employee will report this immediately to their supervisor and will be referred to Occupational Health for treatment and follow-up.
- Personal hygiene
 - All personnel will maintain a high level of personal cleanliness.
 - Uniform or civilian attire worn on the job will be maintained in a neat and clean manner. Designated personnel may wear scrub suits in their workspaces. A cover gown or lab coat will be worn over the scrub suit if leaving the workspace briefly. Departure from these workspaces will necessitate a return to the Uniform of the Day or civilian attire.
- In-service education
 - All personnel in the Diagnostic Division of Radiology will participate in in-service education and will be trained in mandatory OSHA, JCAHO training requirements.
 - All personnel will be familiar with and comply with policies set forth in the Infection Control Manual.

Routine Studies.

- Wash hands before and after patient contact.

- Fresh linen (sheets and pillowcases) will be utilized for each examination and changed after each patient.
- X-ray tables and film cassettes will be wiped down with an EPA approved disinfectant after each patient use.
- Portable X-ray machines will be wiped down with an EPA approved disinfectant daily or when they become visibly soiled.

Special Procedures Area.

- These rooms are used for invasive procedures such as: intravenous cholangiogram, umbrella implantations, PICC line insertions, angiograms, venograms, lymphangiograms, mylograms, and bronchograms. These procedures will be performed following strict aseptic technique.
- Hands will be washed thoroughly with an antiseptic soap prior to the procedure.
- All sterile trays will be setup using strict aseptic technique.
- Personnel are to wear a fresh scrub suit. Physicians performing the procedure are required to wear sterile gowns, gloves, and masks, and will practice barrier technique and precautions.
- Traffic is restricted to authorized personnel only.
- The surgical site is prepped with a surgical scrub and sterile sheets and drapes are utilized. Sterile technique is utilized for insertion of catheters.
- Clean/sterile supplies are stored in dry, clean areas away from contaminated areas. Supplies should be stored 8-10 inches from the floor, and 18-20 inches from the ceiling. Never store clean/sterile supplies in boxes on the floor.

Housekeeping.

- Housekeeping personnel are responsible for the daily cleaning of the department.
- Radiology staff will ensure that all patient areas are kept clean and neat at all times.
- All blood/body fluid spills will be cleaned immediately with bleach solution (1:10). Personnel will always wear gloves when cleaning spills.

Traffic Control.

- Traffic will be restricted to authorized personnel (staff, physicians, and patients).
- Personal visitation will be kept to a minimum.
- Staff personnel will politely challenge any person(s) that are not authorized use of the Radiology Department spaces.

Isolation.

- General information
 - Personnel will determine what type of isolation category the patient is on and will follow specifications as outlined in Chapter 1 of the Infection Control Manual. Emphasis will be placed on isolation of the “infective material”. The same precautions will be taken within the Radiology Department for the protection of the patient and staff as would be taken on the wards.
 - All patients are on “Universal/Standard Precautions” regardless of their diagnosis. Follow the guidelines found in the Infection Control Manual.
 - Personnel will always wear gloves for contact with blood, body fluids, non-intact skin, open wounds, or drainage.

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- The patient's type of isolation should be indicated on the radiology chit. Whenever possible, isolation patients will be scheduled last or near the end of normal working hours.
 - Departmental studies
 - Patients with a communicable disease should not be brought into the department until they can be X-rayed expeditiously. If this is not possible, and the patient must wait, they must be placed in a separate area, away from other patients.
 - When possible, patients on isolation precautions should undergo their procedures late in the day, when traffic in the department is light.
 - Protective attire (gowns, masks, and gloves) will be worn in accordance with the type of isolation category the patient is on. Follow specification as outlined in Chapter 1 of the Infection Control Manual.
 - If the disease can be spread via airborne route (TB, varicella), the patient should wear a mask while in the department. The patient should be instructed to cover the nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, and be separated as much as possible from other patients. If this is not possible, all personnel who come in close contact with the patient will wear a mask.
 - If the patient is on contact precautions, all personnel who come in direct contact with the patient will wear a gown and gloves.
 - Disposable items will be used as much as possible and disposed of in accordance with hospital policy.
 - Masks, gowns, and gloves worn by personnel are discarded in accordance with hospital regulated medical waste policy.
 - Used non-disposable items requiring sterilization will be placed in impervious bags and sent to CPD for decontamination, cleaning, and sterilization.
 - Place a clean sheet on the X-ray table prior to the procedure. Linen will be handled in accordance with hospital policy. All soiled linen will be placed in impervious linen bags and appropriate receptacles.
 - After the patient has been X-rayed, the table, cassette, and all other equipment that have contact with the infective material (blood, pus, drainage) must be cleaned thoroughly with an EPA approved disinfectant.
 - Needles, syringes, and sharps will be handled cautiously and disposed of in accordance with hospital policy. Needles will not be cut, re-capped, or purposefully manipulated by hand. Sharps containers will be conveniently located.
 - All personnel who have had contact with the patient or infective material will wash their hands thoroughly.
 - Isolation patients will not leave the examination room until all films are developed and reviewed by a radiologist to ensure that the requested exam is complete and that additional views are not necessary which would necessitate recalling the patient.
 - Consult the Infection Control Department for questions regarding the care of isolation patients.
 - Portable X-ray units
 - Follow the specifications on the isolation sign posted on the patient's door or bed, regarding proper isolation attire. Don appropriate attire before entering the room or having direct contact with patient.
 - The cassette must be placed in a pillowcase before entering the room.

- After the exposure, the pillowcase is removed from the cassette and discarded in appropriate linen hamper.
- Remove isolation attire and discard in infectious waste stand inside patient's room or at bedside.
- Hands must be washed thoroughly before leaving the room.
- Any part of the equipment that has had contact with the infective material (blood, pus, etc.) or that is visibly soiled must be wiped down with an EPA approved disinfectant prior to reuse.
- Colon studies
 - GI studies will be accomplished via disposable unit dose.
 - All soiled linen that is contaminated with fecal material must be placed in impervious linen bags.
 - Disposable equipment will be utilized as much as possible, and will be disposed of in accordance with hospital regulated medical waste policy.
 - Any equipment that has direct contact with patient or infective material will be wiped down with an EPA approved disinfectant after each patient.