TITLE
INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

SCOPE
Provincial: Continuing Care

APPROVAL AUTHORITY
Clinical Operations Executive Committee

SPONSOR
Senior Program Officer, Infection Prevention and Control

OBJECTIVES
¬ To support publicly funded Continuing Care programs and settings achieve compliance with the Continuing Care Health Service Standards (CCHSS) by them following existing Alberta Health Services (AHS) resources identified within this policy.

PRINCIPLES
Infection Prevention and Control measures in healthcare programs and settings are intended to reduce the transmission of organisms to protect patients from acquiring healthcare associated infections.

Balancing safety and potential risks with a person centred care approach is fundamental to the provision of care in Continuing Care programs and settings.

APPLICABILITY
Compliance with this document is required by all Alberta Health Services employees, members of the medical and midwifery staffs, Students, Volunteers, and other persons acting on behalf of Alberta Health Services (including contracted service providers as necessary) within Continuing Care programs and settings.

ELEMENTS
1. Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Resources
   1.1 AHS IPC resources and materials are located on the AHS external webpage https://www.ahs.ca/IPC.
1.2 For a list of resources that comply with the CCHSS, refer to the CCHSS Standard 11.0 Control Cross Reference Tool.

2. Routine Practices and Additional Precautions

2.1 Health care providers shall adhere to Routine Practices at all times. When indicated, Additional Precautions shall be implemented in accordance with AHS IPC policies and practice recommendations for the applicable patient care setting, including but not limited to the following applicable resource manual(s):

a) Continuing Care Infection Prevention and Control Resource Manual Diseases and Conditions Table; and


2.2 Patients, families and visitors shall be encouraged by all health care providers to follow Routine Practices at all times. A health care professional shall provide information regarding Additional Precautions, when implemented.

3. Notifiable Disease Surveillance and Reporting

3.1 Notifiable disease surveillance and reporting shall be conducted in accordance with the Alberta Public Health Act, Communicable Diseases Regulation under the authority of the Zone Medical Officer of Health.


4. Outbreak Prevention, Identification & Management

4.1 Health care providers shall follow established AHS resources and processes as determined by the care setting:

a) Guidelines for Outbreak Prevention, Control and Management in Acute Care and Facility Living Sites; or

b) Guidelines for Outbreak Prevention, Control and Management in Supportive Living and Home Living; and

c) additional processes which may be established by Zone, program or site.

5. Cleaning of the Health Care Environment

5.1 For the purposes of this policy, the health care environment refers to anywhere the patient may be expected to interact with the environment or receive health care and services, including but not limited to foyer areas, dining areas, tub/shower rooms, patient rooms, examination/treatment rooms, and recreation or common areas.
5.2 Cleaning of the health care environment and the handling of waste and linen shall be conducted in accordance with AHS IPC recommendations applicable to the specific patient care setting, and in compliance with the CCHSS.

6. Medical Devices

6.1 Health care providers shall adhere to established AHS IPC best practice guidelines for the use, cleaning and management of any:

   a) single-use medical device;

   b) single patient-use medical device;

   c) reusable medical device; and

   d) non-critical medical devices.

DEFINITIONS

Additional Precautions means extra measures put in place by a health care professional when Routine Practices alone may not interrupt transmission of an infectious agent. They are used in addition to Routine Practices (not in place of), and are initiated both on presentation of symptoms and on specific diagnosis.

Continuing Care means an integrated range of services supporting the health and wellbeing of individuals living in their own home or in a supportive living or long-term care setting. Continuing care clients are not defined by age, diagnosis or the length of time they may require service but by their need for care.

Health care professional means an individual who is a member of a regulated health discipline, as defined by the Health Disciplines Act (Alberta) or the Health Professions Act (Alberta), and who practises within scope and role.

Health care provider means any person who provides goods or services to a patient, inclusive of health care professionals, staff, students, volunteers and other persons acting on behalf of or in conjunction with Alberta Health Services.

Non-critical medical devices means a medical device which either touches only intact skin but not mucous membranes, or does not directly touch the patient. Examples include but are not limited to the following: commode chairs, blood pressure cuffs and electronic thermometers.

Patient means an adult or child who receives or has requested health care or services from Alberta Health Services and its health care providers or individuals authorized to act on behalf of Alberta Health Services. This term is inclusive of residents, clients and outpatients.

Reusable means, through the selection of materials and/or components, designed by the manufacturer to be used again.
Routine Practice means a comprehensive set of IPC measures that have been developed for use in the routine care of all patients at all times in all healthcare settings. Routine Practices aim to minimize or prevent healthcare associated infections in all individuals in the healthcare setting, including patients, healthcare providers, other staff, visitors, and contractors.

Single-use medical device means a critical or semi-critical medical device designated by the manufacturer for single-use only and may be indicated by, but not limited to, the following terms used for labelling by the manufacturer:
- disposable;
- consumable;
- not for reuse or do not reuse;
- discard after Single-use;
- do not use twice; or a symbol such as 🟡

Single patient-use medical device means a critical or semi-critical medical device that is designated by its manufacturer for use and reuse on a single patient, but may not be reused on another patient (e.g., nebulizers, metered dose inhaler spacers, infant oxygen sensors and Yankauer suction tips).

REFERENCES
- Alberta Health Services Governance Documents:
  - Hand Hygiene Policy suite (#PS-02)
  - Influenza Immunization Policy (#HCS-72)
  - Pneumococcal Immunization Policy (#HCS-73)
- Alberta Health Services Resources
  - CCHSS Standard 11.0 Control Cross Reference Tool
  - Infection Prevention and Control Community-Based Services Resource Manual
  - Continuing Care Infection Prevention and Control Resource Manual Diseases and Conditions Table.
  - Guidelines for Outbreak Prevention, Control and Management in Acute Care and Facility Living Sites
  - Guidelines for Outbreak Prevention, Control and Management in Supportive Living and Home Living
- Non-Alberta Health Services Resources
  - Public Health Act, Communicable Diseases Regulation (Alberta Health)

VERSION HISTORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action Taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Click here to enter a date</td>
<td>Optional: Choose an item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Click here to enter a date</td>
<td>Optional: Choose an item</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>