YOUR QUESTION
Infection prevention and control guidance for hospitalised patients

What is the best evidence currently?

Ensure triage and early recognition of patients with suspected COVID-19 infection. Suspected cases of COVID-19 should be isolated/separated from other patients in adequately ventilated rooms. They should wear a surgical mask and use dedicated toilet facilities. An airborne infection isolation room should be reserved for patients undergoing aerosol-generating procedures.

Any healthcare worker entering the room of a patient with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should wear the appropriate personal protection equipment: gown, gloves, eye protection, and a respirator: eg an N95 respirator or FFP2/FFP3 respirator. Where possible, maintain a physical distance of at least 1 metre but ideally 2 metres from individuals with respiratory symptoms. Staff in contact with a confirmed/suspected case should be trained in the proper use of PPE. Staff should clean their hands regularly, avoid touching their face and promote respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette. Staff should be monitored for development of symptoms and provided with occupational health support. It is important to disinfect inanimate surfaces in the surgery or hospital as patients may touch and contaminate surfaces such as door handles and desktops. All specimens collected for laboratory investigations should be regarded as potentially infectious.

Visits to COVID-19 patients should be minimised and physical contact should be strongly discouraged. Visitors should wear PPE: surgical mask, gloves, goggles and gown.

Anecdotal evidence highlights the importance of doffing and donning PPE correctly to reduce risk of contamination and the creation of separate decontamination areas so elaborate doffing procedures can be collectively undertaken and observed. Infection control training should be provided and standard infection control precautions should be taken at all times to ensure control of common pathogens which hospitals deal with on a daily basis. Best practice guidance for PPE usage is available for healthcare providers who have limited access to PPE materials, such as INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL FOR COVID-19 IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS [ECDC page 8].
HOSPITALISED COVID-19 PATIENTS

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

REDUCED RISK ON COVID-19 SPREADING FROM HOSPITALISED PATIENTS

Resources consulted: WHO, ECDC, HPSC, BMJ Best Practice, UpToDate, Medline, Google Scholar and Google.

The following search strategy was used:


Part 2: EMBASE Indexing (EMTREE) used: hospital patient, infection prevention, infection control and communicable disease control

Medline Indexing (MeSH) used: MH "Inpatients", MH "Communicable Disease Control+", MH "Infection Control+

Keywords used: (Hospital*) adj3 (patient*) OR in-patient* OR inpatient* (infection) adj3 (prevent* OR control*) OR hygiene

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