



Standard Precautions

What you need to know to stay safe



What are Standard Precautions?

- Common sense practices to prevent exposure to and spread of germs.
- Standard Precautions are used for **all** patient care. Every encounter.
- More than just a set of skills; a concept of safety that applies to every patient every time.

Why are they important?

- Implementation of these precautions make up the primary strategy for prevention of healthcare-associated infections.
- These precautions are essential in:
 1. Halting the transmission of hospital acquired infections
 2. Limiting the risk of exposures to health care workers.



What do they have?

Standard precautions include basic infection control skills to be applied during every patient encounter.



Hand Hygiene



Personal Protective Equipment



Respiratory Etiquette



Cleaning and Disinfection



Safe Injection Practices

All of these skills make up Standard Precautions however, it is critical to understand the **conceptual framework** of standard precautions.

Applying the Framework

Your patient is coughing and unable to perform respiratory etiquette...



Wear a mask.

You need to place used, potentially contaminated linen in the proper receptacle...



Wear gloves and perform hand hygiene.

Your patient is suffering from vomiting and diarrhea...



Wear a gown and gloves when providing care.



Evolving our perception of Standard Precautions.

These precautions transcend mere procedure and must be ingrained in a nurse's practice throughout every patient encounter.