

	<b>POLICIES &amp; PROCEDURES</b> Number: <b>Introduction 00-10</b> Title: <b>Introduction to Infection Prevention and Control</b>
<b>Authorization:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SHR Infection Prevention & Control Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Facility Board of Directors	Source: <b>Infection Prevention &amp; Control</b> Date Initiated: April 10, 2001 Date Reaffirmed: June, 2003 Date Revised: May, 2007 Scope: SHR Agencies & Affiliates

The goal of the Infection Prevention and Control Program is to prevent and control the spread of infections and to promote awareness of the principles of infection, and prevention control among patients/residents/clients, staff and visitors. Nosocomial (hospital-acquired) infections develop in at least 5% of patients admitted to hospitals. These nosocomial infections increase morbidity and mortality, resulting in increased hospital stays, and increased expenditures.

The Program is based on the following principles:

- Appropriate interventions can reduce transmission of infection in health care settings.
- Infection prevention & control programs are designed to reduce the risk of transmission to an acceptable level; zero risk is not attainable, and the consequences of transmission must be balanced against the consequences of precautions taken.
- Precautions should be feasible within the context of the health care facility, recognizing the ongoing changes in systems of health care delivery.
- Interventions may vary in acute care, long term care, and community health care settings. Local epidemiology should be considered in the design and application of infection prevention and control interventions.
- The patient population is becoming increasingly immune compromised and at greater risk for nosocomial infection.
- Potential pathogens may be transmitted from symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals.
- **Standard Precautions** are used for all patients regardless of diagnosis and tailored to the characteristics of the patients and their environment.
- Patients known or suspected to be infected or colonized with certain microorganisms will require **Additional Precautions** based on the modes of transmission of these microorganisms.<sup>1</sup>

**Notes:**

Patient/resident/client will be referred to as patient, throughout the manual. Refer to Abbreviations and Definitions.

Information Fact Sheets and signage referred to in this manual is available from SHR Printing Services.

“Standard Precautions” do not differ in principle from “Routine Practices” used by Health Canada.

<sup>1</sup> Health Canada. *Infection control guidelines. Routine practices and additional precautions for preventing the transmission of infection in health care.* CCDR 1999;25S4:1-142.