

**HARDIN COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL
HOSPITAL-WIDE POLICY**

Title: INFECTION CONTROL PROGRAM
Policy Number: 115
Regulation:

Effective Date: 2/14/06
Med Staff:
Admin:

I. POLICY

STATEMENT OF AUTHORITY

The Infection Control Committee, through its chairperson or physician member, has the authority to institute any appropriate control measures or studies and to recommend corrective action within any department, when there is considered to be a danger to any patient or to personnel.

The ICC has the ultimate authority, in the event that there is a question or disagreement in the relation to infection control policy or procedure.

To facilitate early and complete reporting, the ICC, Infection Control Nurse or the Registered Nurse of the patient care unit has the authority to initiate culture and sensitivity testing and institute any appropriate isolation procedures. When any of these actions are taken, the physician responsible for the patient will be notified.

PURPOSE

The ICC establishes the standards necessary to promote an adequate environment for the patients and staff of Hardin County General Hospital & Clinic.

SCOPE

To minimize the hazards of hospital-associated infections and infection potentials by instituting and maintaining measures for:

- Prevention
- Investigation
- Reporting of infections
- Control of infections

II. DEFINITIONS

ICC = Infection Control Committee

ICN = Infection Control Nurse

RN = Registered Nurse

Nosocomial infection = an exogenous infection (caused by organisms acquired by exposure to medical devices, hospital personnel, or the hospital environment) that develops during hospitalization or exposure to the infection of a hospitalized patient, generally after 48 hours of admission or exposure, and is not present or incubating at the time of admission to the hospital or exposure to the infection.

III. RESPONSIBILITY

1. The ICC is responsible for the investigation, control, and prevention of infections in the hospital environment.
2. All hospital employees are required to cooperate with the investigation of nosocomial infections upon request.
3. Isolation precautions are considered for patients with suspected or confirmed wound infections, communicable diseases, or compromised hosts.
4. The physician is responsible for requesting the initiation of isolation precautions. The RN Charge Nurse may initiate isolation precautions by use of standing orders.
5. Patients with suspected or confirmed diagnosis of the following should be admitted directly to a private room until a diagnosis is made or the patient has recovered:
 - A. Meningitis
 - B. Tuberculosis (TB)
 - C. Varicella (chickenpox)
 - D. Rubeola or rubella (measles)
 - E. Hepatitis
 - F. Diarrhea
 - G. Severe Burns
 - H. History of MRSA infection or Nursing Home resident (Patients with like diagnosis may cohort)
6. Employee health policies
 - A. The Infection Control Program protects both patients and personnel and provides the following:
 - a) Immunizations such as HBV and Tetanus
 - b) Diagnostic studies such as TB testing and treatment if needed
 - c) Pre-employment physical exams include: initial medical history, physical examination, a two-step TB skin test, Chest X-ray, etc.

IV. EQUIPMENT

N/A

V. PROCEDURES

INFECTION CONTROL: N/A

An effective Infection Control Program is essential for the well-being of patients and the safety of hospital personnel. The primary objective is improvement of patient care. Some targeted objectives for the program include:

1. Adequate staff participation. All medical and surgical nursing staff must understand the nature of the infection control program, especially as it effects the practices necessary to do their jobs.
2. Goal oriented surveillance, which is the investigation of clusters of infections including:
 - a) Clinical surveillance
 - b) Environmental surveillance
 - c) Personnel surveillance
3. Policy enforcement
4. Education:
 - a) Programs directed toward promoting an understanding of basic concepts of hygiene, infection, and communicable disease to prevent nosocomial infections and to contain and control community-acquired ones.
 - b) New employees of all departments must be oriented to infection control principles and policies as these affect their respective jobs

VI. DOCUMENTATION

Minutes are taken at each ICC meeting and kept in the Administrators office.