

HICPAC Isolation Precautions Guideline Workgroup Call

March 25, 2023, 2:00 pm ET

Participants

Workgroup: Sharon Wright, Mike Lin, Hilary Babcock, Elaine Dekker, Judith Guzman-Cottrill, Anu Malani, Mark Russi, Connie Steed, Julie Trivedi, Deborah Yokoe

CDC: Mike Bell, Sydney Byrd, Abigail Carlson, Ryan Fagan, Fernanda Lessa, Melissa Schaefer, Christine So, Erin Stone, David Weissman, Laura Wells

Agenda

- Brief recap of last meeting and goals of this meeting & upcoming HICPAC, updated timeline
- EBP targeted review
- Discussion of Transmission-based Precautions draft
- Discussion of Standard Precautions draft
- Wrap up

Discussion Summary

EBP targeted review

After Dr. Wright summarized the previous meeting, Ms. Stone presented the EBP targeted review.

- Of the eight initial studies, three were excluded, so five were reviewed.
 - Questions to the group:
 - Do we want to include studies with a multi-component strategy and craft a recommendation around that vs. just the targeted use of gown and gloves?
 - Is this recommendation intended to be binary (use vs. don't use), or is it intended to be used for specific activities?
 - The goal is to determine if implementing Enhanced Barrier Precautions, as currently proposed in the table, interrupts transmission of pathogens.
 - Questions from the group:
 - Do any of these studies look at a correlation between gown contamination and an increase in infection among residents and/or caregivers?
 - No, a literature review would need to be conducted for that specific question.
 - Was Anthony Harris' bug study included?
 - Only studies specific to nursing homes were included.
 - What do the blank spaces mean in the summary table?
 - It means there was no statistical significance for an increase or decrease in contamination.
 - The group discussed other multi-component studies that might be beneficial to include in the review (e.g., Modi papers).

Discussion of Transmission-based Precautions draft

- Members agreed to remove the footnote about eye protection from the Transmission by Air table because it is addressed in Standard Precautions.
- A member suggested adding language to the Standard Precautions section to consider implementing universal eye protection during respiratory virus season or during an outbreak.
- The group discussed how a facility would determine when to implement eye protection.
 - Supplemental tools could be created to assist facilities in making this decision.

- The group agreed it would be best to avoid referring to infectious “aerosols,” and members suggested “infectious particles,” “respiratory particles,” or “infectious materials in the air” may be better options.
- The group agreed that AIIR should be renamed once the language around transmission by air is finalized.
- The group discussed the language in lines 191-198 about transporters wearing respirators in the hallway. They agreed they should not be required to wear a respirator in large open spaces but should carry one for use in certain circumstances (e.g., elevator).
- The language in line 179 about transporters wearing a gown and gloves is similar and may need to be aligned with the language around masks for transporters.
- The group discussed better defining when to don PPE when entering the care area of a patient on contact precautions.
 - Members agreed that the criteria need to be very clear.
 - Members expressed concern about saying “upon room entry.”

Next Steps

Due to time, members were asked to send any further comments by email so that their feedback could be incorporated before the HICPAC meeting.

The call adjourned at 3:02 pm with no additional comments or questions.

The next Workgroup call is scheduled for June 22, 2023, at 2 pm ET.