

HICPAC Isolation Precautions Guideline Workgroup Call

July 20, 2023, 2:00 pm ET

Participants

Workgroup: Sharon Wright, Mike Lin, Hilary Babcock, Elaine Dekker, Judith Guzman-Cottrill, Anu Malani, JoAnne Reifsnnyder, Mark Russi, Connie Steed, Julie Trivedi, Deborah Yokoe
CDC: Sydney Byrd, Abigail Carlson, Ryan Fagan, Fernanda Lessa, Erin Stone, David Weissman, Laura Wells

Agenda

- Introductions and Welcome to *ad hoc* LTC workgroup participants
- Enhanced Barrier Precautions discussion
- Transmission by Touch – remaining issues (e.g., defining patient space)

Discussion Summary

Agenda Item One

After introducing *ad hoc* LTC workgroup participants, Dr. Lin led a discussion on Enhanced Barrier Precautions (EBP).

- Question to discuss: In the 2024 update to transmission-based precautions, how should EBP be recommended in skilled nursing facilities?
- Dr. Lin reviewed the background on the Isolation Precautions guideline update and EBP.
- In the Isolation Precautions update presented at the June HICPAC meeting, the EBP table said “may be indicated,” but after discussion at the meeting, the table was changed to “is indicated.”
 - Members, ex officios, and liaisons indicated they wanted the language to be stronger and more concrete.
 - An unintended consequence could be that it creates a regulatory mandate.
 - It was also discussed to remove EBP from the guideline and keep the status quo.
- After the group discussion, the consensus was to keep EBP in the isolation guideline update but say “may be indicated” and link to CDC guidance.

Transmission by Touch – remaining issues (e.g., defining patient space)

- The group discussed defining patient space.
 - There was agreement that it’s confusing where to remove PPE and that it would be good to develop a consensus.

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

The next Workgroup call is scheduled for August 10, 2023, at 2:00 pm ET.