

HICPAC Isolation Precautions Guideline Workgroup Call

August 10, 2023, 2:00 pm ET

Participants

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

CDC: Mike Bell, Sydney Byrd, Abigail Carlson, Marie de Perio, Ryan Fagan, Alex Kallen, Fernanda Lessa, Melissa Schaefer, Christine So, Erin Stone, Matt Stuckey, Laura Wells

Agenda:

- Updated work plan and timeline
 - August 22 HICPAC mtg: No vote on any part of Isolation Guideline update, questions for discussion
 - Nov HICPAC mtg: Section A/B (possibly C) for vote
 - Sept/Oct: Possible additional HICPAC meeting
- Outstanding issues for discussion
 - EBP
 - Recap of meeting with LTC workgroup on July 20
 - Discussion of updated wording
 - Visitor guidance
 - Standard Precautions naming discussion
 - Consider needed additions to section B
- NIOSH subject matter experts (SMEs) at next meeting
- Discussion topics for HICPAC meeting

Discussion Summary

Updated work plan and timeline

- The goal is for the Committee to vote in November on sections A and B (possibly C).
- An additional Committee meeting might be added before the November meeting.
- The workgroup (WG) needs to decide on topics for the August 22nd meeting.

Outstanding issues for discussion

- Enhanced Barrier Precautions (EBP)
 - The EBP wording was discussed with ad-hoc guests from the Long-Term Care (LTC) workgroup at the last meeting.
 - There was uniform support to keep EBP in this guideline update.
 - The LTC WG members said it is useful and is already being practiced.
 - There was also support for the MDRO protocol.
 - Support was mixed for saying “indicated” for residents with wounds and devices. Some felt there was insufficient evidence and there could be challenges with implementation.
 - There was a discussion about EBP being suitable for certain units.
 - If this is outside the purview of this guideline, then it could link to other CDC guidance.
 - One WG member suggested the wounds and devices indication might need to be expanded to include others at high risk of developing an MDRO
 - The WG agreed on options to be brought to the Committee for discussion at the public meeting:
 - Indicated for residents infected or colonized with an MDRO.

- Consider for residents at high risk for developing an MDRO.
- Visitor Guidance
 - The proposed language was edited for brevity.
 - The WG member who proposed the language asked that visitor limitation for patients with highly transmissible diseases be added back in.
 - The WG discussed if this guideline could link to a different document with more details but did not come to a final decision.
- Standard Precautions (SP) naming discussion.
 - WG members discussed reasons for changing the name for SP, including this being an opportunity to reeducate healthcare workers on what SP is.
 - Some WG members expressed wanting to keep the name the same but agreed there needs to be more education on what it is.
 - A WG member suggested “Every Patient Precautions.”
 - The workgroup decided this should be a topic to discuss with the HICPAC committee at the public meeting in August.
- Discussion on other possible additions to section B.
 - A WG member said there is a lack of emphasis on the other parts of the hierarchy of controls, like ventilation.
 - WG members discussed whether linking to environmental controls is sufficient or if the specialized air handling section should be expanded.
 - There was a discussion about renaming Airborne Infection Isolation Rooms (AIIR)
 - Air Containment Room (ACR) was suggested.
 - A WG member said AIIRs are a part of ASHRAE guidance and questioned if it is up to this group to rename them.
 - Some WG members agreed that, for consistency, “Airborne” should be proposed for removal from the name of these rooms because “Airborne” is being proposed for removal from the transmission categories.

NIOSH SME comments

- NIOSH SMEs are invited to the next workgroup meeting, so WG members were asked to review comments on the draft before that meeting.

Discussion topics for the public HICPAC meeting on August 22nd

- Updated language for Enhanced Barrier Precautions
- Standard Precautions
 - Renaming
 - Other questions?
 - Are there things in SP that need to be changed?
 - If changing the name, do we need to repackage it so it's more digestible?
 - What is the priority when teaching it?
- Other potential topics:
 - Should we keep the text on extended use?
 - Should we keep organism examples in the transmission category table?
 - Defining the safe zone for Contact Precautions (e.g., area where gowns and gloves would not be required).

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

The next Workgroup call is scheduled for August 17, 2023, at 2 pm ET.