

Summary of general changes throughout all Transmission Based Precautions (TBPs) 2009

Section	Changes
<p>Introduction</p> <p>Added into all TBPs</p> <p>4) Why are transmission based precautions necessary</p>	<p>Additional text added</p> <p>They are necessary because transmission of specific infectious agents will not be prevented by SICPs alone e.g. <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>. SICPs are the minimum set of measures to be applied at all times within a health and social care setting or where health and social care is being provided. SICPs should be applied for both recognised and unrecognised sources of infection and are intended to protect the patient/client, health and social care worker and any visitors/carers.</p> <p>SICPs must underpin all health and social care activities and should be applied at all times, when exposure to blood, other body fluids secretions or excretions (except sweat) non intact skin or mucous membranes may occur. SICPs also apply to equipment or items in the patient/client environment that may have become contaminated.</p>
<p>Throughout all policies</p>	<p>Reference to <i>Infection Control</i> changed to <i>Infection Prevention and Control</i></p>
<p>Underpinning responsibilities</p> <p>Managers and all staff sections</p>	<p>Changed to</p> <p>Ensure that estates/facilities management provide a safe environment to allow infection* prevention and control precautions to be applied.</p>
<p>Why are management of care equipment and control of the environment additional considerations for droplet precautions?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment such as mops/buckets used for cleaning in-patient areas (hospital) should be colour coded as stated in the NHSScotland Colour Coding for Hospital Cleaning Materials and Equipment (HFS, 2008). In isolation or dedicated single rooms/areas these should be yellow in colour and should not be used in other rooms/areas. These items should also be clean, fit for purpose and decontaminated or disposed of as appropriate following use. Cleaning equipment should not be left in a patient's/client's room between use, unless there is a dedicated storage area • Within NHSScotland premises, the NHSScotland Cleaning Specifications should be complied with. • The NHSScotland Cleaning Specification and Colour Coding of Hospital Cleaning Materials is not applicable in care homes and other community settings however the principles of this policy should be applied.

<p>Why is safe management of linen and additional consideration for droplet precautions?</p>	<p>NHSScotland settings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linen that could be contaminated with infectious droplets must be managed safely in order to avoid cross transmission of infectious agents. This should be bagged as infected linen within the Healthcare Setting. • Ensure safe handling of linen, i.e. wear PPE and wash hands on removal • Place contaminated linen into an alginate bag at the point of removal. Do not carry linen • Place alginate bags into appropriately colour coded linen bag • Communicate with others who may handle the infected linen to ensure they take precautions <p>Care Home settings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In care home settings the principles of this policy should be applied when dealing with linen that could be contaminated with infectious droplets. This would include bagging infected linen directly into water soluble/alginate bags providing that industrial washing machines are in use. If domestic washing machines are in use or if home laundering is undertaken refer to HPS Washing Clothes at Home leaflet http://www.documents.hps.scot.nhs.uk/hai/infection-control/publications/washing-clothes-home.pdf <p>See HPS Model Infection Control Policy on Safe Management of Linen (http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/haic/ic/modelinfectioncontrolpolicies.aspx) for more information on care of other linen such as people's own clothing and seek further advice on this from local Infection Control/Health Protection Teams</p>
<p>Appendix 4</p> <p>Safe Management of Linen</p>	<p>Changed contaminated to infected linen.</p>