

CMS has released the following terms and their definitions in an effort to clarify infection control terminology that is frequently used in long-term care.¹

terms and definitions

Infection Control Terminology

Airborne precautions

Actions taken to prevent or minimize the transmission of infectious agents/organisms that remain infectious over long distances when suspended in the air. These particles can remain suspended in the air for prolonged periods of time and can be carried on normal air currents in a room or beyond, to adjacent spaces or areas receiving exhaust air.

Alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR)

A 60-95 percent ethanol- or isopropyl-containing preparation base designed for application to the hands to reduce the number of viable microorganisms

Antifungal

A medication used to treat fungal infections such as athlete's foot, ringworm or candidiasis

Anti-infective

A group of medications used to treat infections

Antiseptic hand wash

Washing hands with water and soap or other detergents containing an antiseptic agent

Cohorting

The practice of grouping residents infected or colonized with the same infectious agent together to confine their care to one area and prevent contact with susceptible residents (cohorting residents). During outbreaks, healthcare personnel may be assigned to a cohort of residents to further limit opportunities for transmission (cohorting staff).

Communicable disease, AKA contagious disease

An infection transmissible (as from person-to-person) by direct contact with an affected individual or the individual's body fluids or by indirect means (as by a vector)

Community-associated infections

Infections that are present or incubating at the time of admission or generally develop within 72 hours of admission

Contact precautions

Measures that are intended to prevent the transmission of infectious agents, including epidemiologically important microorganisms, which are spread by direct or indirect contact with the resident or the resident's environment

Droplet precautions

Actions designed to reduce/prevent the transmission of pathogens spread through close respiratory or mucous membrane contact with respiratory secretions

Hand hygiene

A general term that applies to washing the hands with water and either plain soap or soap/detergent containing an antiseptic agent or thoroughly applying an alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR)

Handwashing

Washing the hands with plain (i.e., nonantimicrobial) soap and water

Healthcare-associated infection (HAI), AKA nosocomial or facility-acquired infections

An infection that generally occurs after 72 hours from the time of admission to a healthcare facility

Infection

The establishment of an infective agent in or on a suitable host, producing clinical signs and symptoms (e.g., fever, redness, heat, purulent exudates, etc.)

Infection prevention and control program

A program (including surveillance, investigation, prevention, control and reporting) that provides a safe, sanitary and comfortable environment to help prevent the development and transmission of infection

Infection preventionist (IP), AKA infection control professional

A person whose primary training is in either nursing, medical technology, microbiology or epidemiology and who has acquired additional training in infection control

(Cont.)

Infection Control Terminology

Isolation

Practices employed to reduce the spread of an infectious agent and/or minimize the transmission of infection

Isolation precautions

See “transmission-based precautions”

Medical waste

Any solid waste that is generated in the diagnosis, treatment or immunization of human beings or animals in research pertaining to, or in the production or testing of, biologicals (e.g., blood-soaked bandages, sharps)

Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)

Staphylococcus aureus bacteria that are resistant to treatment with semi-synthetic penicillins (e.g., Oxacillin/Nafcillin/Methicillin)

Outbreak

The occurrence of more cases of a particular infection than is normally expected, the occurrence of an unusual organism or the occurrence of unusual antibiotic resistance patterns

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

Protective items or garments worn to protect the body or clothing from hazards that can cause injury

Standard precautions (formerly “universal precautions”)

Infection prevention practices that apply to all residents, regardless of suspected or confirmed diagnosis or presumed infection status. Standard precautions are a combination and expansion of “universal precautions” and “body substance isolation” (a practice of isolating all body substances, such as blood, urine and feces).

Surveillance

Ongoing, systematic collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of data to identify infections and infection risks to try to reduce morbidity and mortality and to improve resident health status

Transmission-based precautions, AKA isolation precautions

The actions (precautions) implemented, in addition to standard precautions, that are based upon the means of transmission (airborne, contact and droplet) in order to prevent or control infections

Vancomycin-resistant *enterococcus* (VRE)

Enterococcus that has developed resistance to vancomycin

Reference

1 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. CMS Manual System, Transmittal 55. Available at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R55SOMA.pdf>. Accessed January 4, 2010.

Featured Product Listing: The following products were featured in this issue in *Embrace* and can be ordered by calling Professional Medical at (800) 648-5190 or visiting us at www.promedsupply.com.

PAGE 5

Compliance® Skin Caring Hand Sanitizer (600-SCS17) Sanitizers Hand Alcohol Aloe VitE 17oz Pump Top Compliance / Purell, 12/cs (600-SCS4) Sanitizers Hand Alcohol Aloe VitE 4oz Compliance / Purell, 24/cs

PAGE 11

Compliance® Synthetic Exam Gloves (600-V111) Gloves Exam Syn Vinyl PF Disp LF NS Sm Compliance, 100/bx 10bx/cs (600-V112) Gloves Exam Syn Vinyl PF Disp LF NS Md Compliance, 100/bx 10bx/cs, (600-V113) Gloves Exam Syn Vinyl PF Disp LF NS Lg Compliance, 100/bx 10bx/cs (600-V114) Gloves Exam Syn Vinyl PF Disp LF NS XL Compliance, 100/bx 10bx/cs

Compliance® Nitrile Exam Gloves (600-NW11) Gloves Exam Nitrile Wht 4.7mil PF Disp LF NS Sm Compliance, 100/bx 10bx/cs (600-NW12) Gloves Exam Nitrile Wht 4.7mil PF Disp LF NS Md Compliance, 100/bx 10bx/cs (600-NW13) Gloves Exam Nitrile Wht 4.7mil PF Disp LF NS Lg Compliance, 100/bx 10bx/cs (600-NW14) Gloves Exam Nitrile Wht 4.7mil PF Disp LF NS XL Compliance, 100/bx 10bx/cs

Compliance® Latex Exam Gloves (600-1101) Gloves Exam Latex Pwdred Disp NS Sm Compliance, 100/bx 10bx/cs (600-1102) Gloves Exam Latex Pwdred Disp NS Md Compliance, 100/bx 10bx/cs (600-1103) Gloves Exam Latex Pwdred Disp NS Lg Compliance, 100/bx 10bx/cs (600-1111) Gloves Exam Latex PF Disp NS Sm Compliance, 100/bx 10bx/cs (600-1112) Gloves Exam Latex PF Disp NS Md Compliance, 100/bx 10bx/cs (600-1113) Gloves Exam Latex PF Disp NS Lg Compliance, 100/bx 10bx/cs (600-1114) Gloves Exam Latex PF Disp NS XL Compliance, 100/bx 10bx/cs

Compliance® Stretch Synthetic Exam Gloves (600-SS11) Gloves Exam Synth Stretch Vinyl PF Disp LF NS Sm Compliance, 100/bx 10bx/cs, (600-SS12) Gloves Exam Synth Stretch Vinyl PF Disp LF NS Md Compliance, 100/bx 10bx/cs (600-SS13) Gloves Exam Synth Stretch Vinyl PF Disp LF NS Lg Compliance, 100/bx 10bx/cs (600-SS14) Gloves Exam Synth Stretch Vinyl PF Disp LF NS XL Compliance, 100/bx 10bx/cs

PAGE 20

N95 Particulate Filter Respirators (500-MN95) Masks N95 Particulate Respirator Cone Mold Style White, 20/bx 12bx/cs (400-RFT01) Respirators N95 Fit Test Kit Saccharin Incl:Reuse Hood, 2 Nebs, 2 Soln (ea), ea

Compliance® Skin Caring Hand Sanitizer See page 5 product listing

PAGE 31

CaviCide® (500-ACP24) Disinfect/Decontamnt Clnr Spray ST 24 oz CaviCide, 12/cs (500-ACP04) Disinfect/Decontamnt Clnr Refill CaviCide, 4gl/cs

CaviWipes® (500-ACPWC-LG) Wipes Disinf/Decontamnt Clnr Lg 6"x 6.75" CaviWipes, 160/tub 12tub/cs (500-ACPWC-S) Wipes Disinf/Decontamnt Clnr Singles XL 10"x12" CaviWipes, 50/bx 6bx/cs (500-ACPWC-XL) Wipes Disinf/Decontamnt Clnr XL 10"x12" CaviWipes, 66/tub 12tub/cs

PAGE 34

Diff-Stat™ (622-80001), Supplement Synbiotic Tablets Chewable Diff-Stat, 30/bt 6bt/cs (622-80001-U) Supplement Synbiotic Unit Doze Packets Diff-Stat, 96pk/cs

Pro-Stat® (622-10130), Nutritional Enteral/Oral FeedProStat Awc Cherry 30oz, 4bt/cs (622-20064) Nutritional Enteral/Oral ProStat 64 Liq Protein SF Btr Pecan 30 oz, 6/cs (622-10064) Nutritional Enteral/Oral ProStat 64 Liq Protein SF Cherry 30 oz, 6/cs (622-20101) Nutritional Oral Supp ProStat 101 Protein Supp Butter Pecan 30 oz, 6/cs (622-40101) Nutritional Oral Supp ProStat 101 Protein Supp Natural Flavor 30 oz, 6/cs (622-10101) Nutritional Oral Supp ProStat 101 Protein Supp Wild Cherry 30 oz, 6/cs

UTI-Stat™ (622-60001-U), Nutritional Oral Supp UTI-Stat Cranberry 30 ml, 96/cs (622-60001) Nutritional Oral Supp UTI-Stat Cranberry 30 oz, 4/cs