DONNING AND REMOVAL OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

PURPOSE:

This policy and procedure reviews the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and describes how to put on and remove PPE in a manner that protects the healthcare provider and the patient.

POLICY STATEMENT:

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is an essential element of healthcare provider and patient safety policies at the BCHS.
- Staff must wear PPE routinely for the care of patients and when indicated for patients in additional precautions.
- PPE supplies must be readily available at point of care in all patient care areas.

DEFINITION(S):

Donning: The appropriate sequence for safely applying personal protective equipment.

Doffing or Removal: The appropriate sequence for the safe removal of personal protective equipment.

PROCEDURE:

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1) Gloves

a) Use clean, non-sterile gloves:
- When in contact with blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions, mucous, draining wounds or non-intact skin (open skin lesions or exudative rash).

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- When handling items visibly soiled with blood, body fluids, secretions, or excretions.

b) When required, put on gloves immediately before contact with the patient, or just before the task or procedure requiring gloves.
c) Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene between care activities and procedures with the same patient, (e.g. after handling an indwelling urinary catheter, endotracheal suctioning, emptying a bed pan).
d) Remove gloves immediately after completion of care or a specific task, at the point of use, and before touching clean environmental surfaces.
e) Clean hands immediately after removing gloves. The use of alcohol-based hand rub is the preferred method for hand hygiene when hands are not visibly soiled.
f) Do not reuse or wash gloves.
g) Keep gloved hands away from face.

2) Gowns

a) Use gowns to protect uncovered skin and prevent soiling of clothing during procedures and patient care activities likely to generate splashes or sprays of blood, body fluids, secretions or excretions.
b) Do not wear yellow isolation gowns outside of the patient's room, unless indicated during patient transport or for ambulating with patients that are in additional precautions.
c) Gowns may be indicated in caring for patients who soil their environment as per routine practices.

3) Masks and Eye Protection

a) Surgical/procedure masks and eye protection or face shields must be worn to protect the mucous membranes of the eyes, nose and mouth during procedures and patient care activities likely to generate splashes or sprays of blood, body fluids, secretions or excretions.

b) Examples include:

- Invasive surgical procedures
- Endoscopic procedures
- Obstetrical procedures
- Projectile vomiting
- Procedures generating aerosol droplets
- Patients that are coughing

c) Surgical/procedure masks and eye protection are to be worn in all Droplet/Contact Precaution rooms.
d) N95 respirator masks must be worn in all Airborne Precaution rooms.
e) All healthcare providers must undergo a mask fit test every 2 years to determine which N95 respirator mask is the most appropriate for them.

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4) Steps for Donning PPE

a) Clean your hands.
b) Put on Gown.
- Fully cover body from neck to knees with a long-sleeved gown, making sure that arms are well covered (i.e. sleeves are not too short). Fasten gown at the neck and the waist.

c) Put on Mask.
- Procedure mask/shield: Apply mask with attached shield over face and pinch nosepiece over bridge of nose, placing loops over ears to fit mask snugly.
- Surgical/procedure mask: Apply mask over mouth and nose, tie snugly behind head or place loops over ears to fit mask snugly.
- N95 respirator mask: Choose the respirator deemed most appropriate for you from your fit test. Conduct a seal check after donning the N95 respirator mask.

d) Put on Goggles/Face Shield.
- Fit goggles over eyes, or face shield over face.

5) Steps for Removal (doffing) of PPE

a) Remove gloves and discard. Use a glove-to-glove, skin to skin technique.
b) Remove isolation gown. Unfasten neck and waist ties and pull gown from each shoulder towards the hands. Discard in linen bag, within the patient's room.
c) Perform hand hygiene.
d) Remove eye protection and discard in waste container.
e) Remove surgical/procedure mask or N95 respiratory mask and discard in waste container.
f) Perform hand hygiene.

APPENDICES

Appendix A – PPE Recommended Steps

RELATED PRACTICES AND/OR LEGISLATION:

Hyperlinks and references to any related corporate documents or legislation.
May include staff resource links not directly referenced or included as appendices.

REFERENCES:

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Routine Practices and Additional Precautions for Preventing the Transmission of Infection in Health Care – Provincial Infectious Disease Advisory Committee November 2012

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