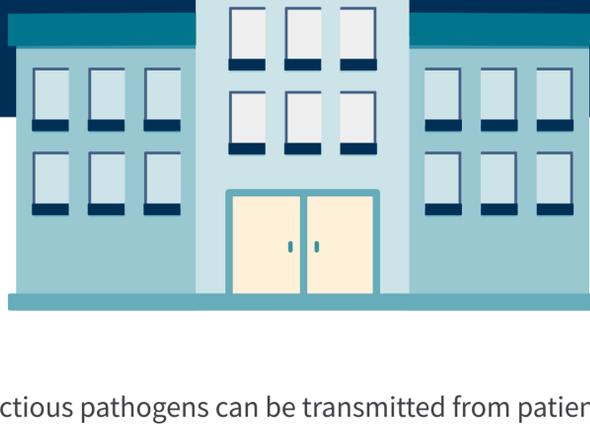


Putting On And Taking Off Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

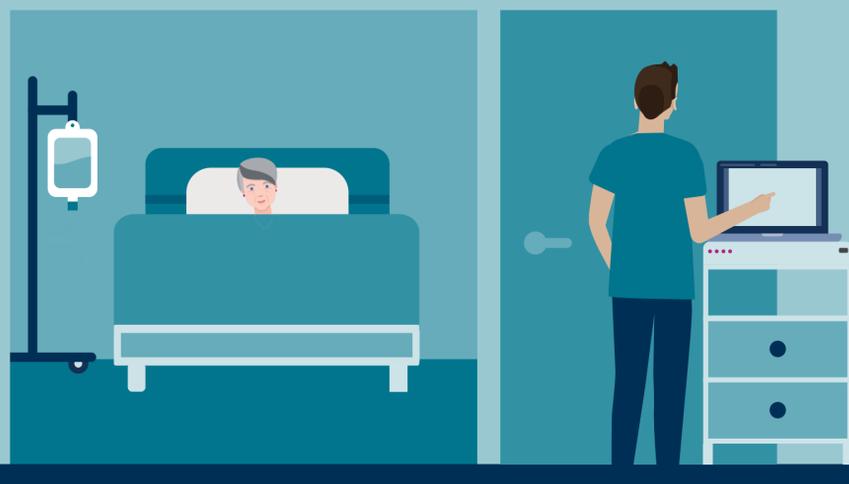


Are Your Nurses Checking all the Boxes?



Infectious pathogens can be transmitted from patients to health care personnel, possibly causing significant illness and death. Personal protective equipment (PPE) is used to prevent pathogen transmission and must be put on and taken off in an appropriate order to prevent disease transmission or potential self-contamination. This is a critical skill to ensure your team is protecting themselves and their patients and preventing the spread of disease.

Check out the Dynamic Health™ competency checklist below to see if your nurses are checking all the boxes when it comes to putting on and taking off personal protective equipment.



PRE-PROCEDURE STEPS

- 1. Check care plan and treating clinician orders. Verify level of isolation precautions for patient.
- 2. Review facility's policy/procedures regarding isolation precautions to determine what level of PPE should be worn.
- 3. Recognize: Type of PPE will vary based on required precaution level (airborne, contact, droplet, or standard).
- 4. Donning procedure should be tailored to specific PPE type (for example, use of face mask or respirator).
- 5. If providing care to patient with airborne disease and respirator is required, ensure availability of appropriate respirator that has been fit checked prior to use.
- 6. Ensure patient room is stocked appropriately with necessary isolation supplies and signage is posted to notify staff and visitors, if appropriate.
- 7. Follow standard pre-procedure steps, as appropriate.



PROCEDURE STEPS

- 1. Use meticulous hand washing throughout patient interaction to prevent disease transmission.
- 2. Put on necessary PPE when entering patient room. If integrity of PPE is ever compromised, leave patient room, remove PPE, perform hand hygiene, and then repeat steps to put on new PPE.
- 3. To put on PPE:
[Watch the Donning Personal Protective Equipment Video](#)
 - a. Put on gown. Fully cover torso from neck to knees, arms to end of wrist, and wrap gown around back. Tie gown at back of neck and behind you at waist level to minimize risk of strings getting contaminated.
 - b. Select mask or approved N95 respirator based on isolation precaution level. Follow steps to put on mask or respirator. If a respirator is required, perform seal check.
 - c. Put on goggles or face shield and adjust to fit. Use face shield if there is potential for splash, spray, or spatter of body fluids.
 - d. Put on gloves, making sure they cover wrists of isolation gown.
- 4. Wear PPE whenever you provide care in a patient room.
- 5. When care tasks are complete, remove all PPE except respirator while still inside room. Remove respirators outside room.
- 6. To take off PPE:
[Watch the Doffing Personal Protective Equipment Video](#)
 - a. Follow steps to remove gloves, remembering outside of gloves are contaminated.
 - b. Remove goggles or face shield by lifting head band or earpieces. If item is reusable, place in designated receptacle for reprocessing, otherwise discard in trash receptacle.
 - c. Follow steps to remove gown, remembering gown front and sleeves are contaminated.
 - d. Remove mask or respirator without touching front of mask. Grasp ties or elastics at bottom of mask/respirator and untie or pull over head. Grasp ties or elastics at top of mask/respirator and untie or pull over head.
 - e. Place all worn, single-use PPE into trash receptacle.



POST-PROCEDURE STEPS

- 1. Once patient care has been completed, remove PPE in appropriate order, and discard in trash receptacle. Then wash hands thoroughly.
- 2. Follow standard post-procedure steps, as appropriate.

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There's lots more where this came from. *Dynamic Health*, an innovative new evidence-based tool, offers thousands of actionable clinical skills and accompanying competency checklists to help nurses and allied health professionals master critical skills. Users will find current, relevant, evidence-based information on core nursing competencies, transcultural care, patient training, occupational therapy, speech therapy, nutrition and dietetics, social work and so much more.

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