(A) Policy Statement

The Rehabilitation Services Department will comply with all infection control policies as established for the hospital as well as any policies established specifically for Rehabilitation Services department procedures. The Rehabilitation Services Department will comply with the Standard Precautions Policy as established for the hospital.

(B) Purpose of Policy

To assure all patients will receive the same standard of care regardless of whether or not they may have a potentially infectious disease.

(C) Procedure

Infection Control Guidelines will be available at all times and will be accessible to employees on line through Clinical Portal link to Hospital Administration Policies and Plans.

Any Rehab Service infection control policies and/or procedures are kept in the Rehab specific policy section of the Hospital Administration Policies and Plans.

It is the responsibility of each employee to familiarize himself with these guidelines and to follow them, and for the safety committee to keep employees knowledgeable of policy changes.

Each employee will be instructed on these during their initial orientation and annually for the duration of their employment within the department.

Some personnel may be required to pass competencies in other areas (i.e., aseptic technique).

MEASURES FOR INFECTION CONTROL

1. Personal protective equipment will be available to all employees in all areas. This equipment will be routinely checked to assure it is available and restocked with each use.

2. Bedside physical/occupational/speech therapy can be provided according to the patients’ needs.

3. Standard precautions will be used for all patients.

4. Therapy mats will be wiped with the hospital approved disinfectant after each patient use.

5. Therapy equipment (i.e. weights, balls) will be cleaned with the hospital-approved disinfectant after use.

6. Equipment that cannot be cleaned (i.e. putty, cardboard puzzles) will not be used with patients in isolation.

7. Equipment used in Rehab Services will be handled via Infection Control Policy 3364-109-EQP-800.

8. Open lesions will be covered prior to the use of department equipment.
9. Contact precautions will be utilized as ordered. The rehabilitation staff will encourage and educate these patients on proper hand washing technique. Patients will wash their hands prior to leaving their room for activities outside of their rooms.

10. Dishes and countertops in the OT kitchen will be cleaned and sanitized per department procedure.

Wound Care in Rehabilitation Services

1. All patients with an open wound will be considered potentially infectious.

2. Any draining or open wound will be covered when the patient is not in their room.

3. For wound care in cases of open lesion, all rehabilitation staff must:
   - hand wash before wound care
   - wear clean gloves to remove dressing
   - use sterile technique
   - wear protective gown which is changed between each patient contact
   - wear mask
   - wear face protection for irrigation of a wound
   - hand wash following wound care

4. Wounds shall be redressed or covered for patient transport.

5. Whirlpool treatment and whirlpool maintenance will be completed per department procedures.

6. Clean, dry towels will be used to dry and protect open wounds following whirlpool treatments.

Approved by:

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Date

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Date

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It is the responsibility of the reader to verify with the responsible agent that this is the most current version of the policy.