

12-23-24 Weekly Clinical Update

KHCA had a great Facility Standards/Nurse Advisory Committee meeting last Friday and we discussed the changes in the upcoming Rules of Participation (Appendix PP), including the inclusion of the CDC guidelines for EBP (Enhanced Barrier Precautions). After the meeting, I was gently and courteously reminded by a KFMC Infection Preventionist of the recent APIC/AAPCN guidance on EBP at: <https://apic.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/2024-Implementing-Enhanced-Barrier-Precautions-in-Long-Term-Care.pdf>. This guidance will assist providers, specifically, Infection Preventionists to fully implement the newest guidance. This information was provided in the December Reflections but since CMS is putting new guidance to surveyors in place in February, perhaps it would be good to review that guidance. This guidance also has some training scenarios for use of staff education.

The guidance includes instructional sections including:

- “What are Enhanced Barrier Precautions?”
- “Which type of Long-Term Care Facilities should use Enhanced Barrier Precautions?”
- “When should Enhanced Barrier Precautions be used for a resident?”
- “Does the use of Enhanced Barrier Precautions restrict the movement of a resident in their facility?”
- “When should Enhanced Barrier Precautions be used when ambulating a resident in their room or hallway?”
- “Recommendations following Enhanced Barrier Precautions for nursing home staff based on care activities”

Table 1 in the Guidance is an excellent chart of recommendations

TABLE 1: Recommendations following Enhanced Barrier Precautions for nursing home staff based on care activities

Examples of Care Activities	Infection Control Recommendation
Talking to resident	Use HAND HYGIENE (minimal contact with resident)
Passing oral medications	
Passing trays	
Dropping off mail	
Removing or putting on clean wheelchair foot pedals	
Assisting with clothing protector or helping put on outerwear (e.g., a jacket or sweater)	
Transferring resident from wheelchair to chairs in the dining room or during an activity (common areas)	
Helping with life enrichment activities (e.g., card games, arts and crafts, singing, discussions)	
Assisting with meals or meal set up	
Providing care under clothes or dressings	
Providing bundled AM or PM care including oral care, dressing, bathing, grooming	
Taking the resident to the toilet or providing peri care	
Having prolonged high-contact with items in the resident's room, resident equipment, or with resident clothing or skin in the resident's room, shower room, or the therapy gym, or doing extended therapy/restorative activities	
Emptying drainage bags	
Doing dressing changes	
Changing the linens	
Providing bed mobility, including rolling from side to side	

Note: Standard Precautions apply to the care of all residents based on the anticipated exposure to blood, body fluids, secretions or excretions.