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INFORMATION LEAFLET
BARRIER / ISOLATION
NURSING
Infection Control
Patient Information Leaflet
What is barrier nursing / isolation?

Barrier nursing is one way of preventing the spread of infection from one person to another in hospital. This means you may need to be nursed in a side room.

A notice will be placed on the door to inform staff and visitors that certain precautions must be taken. We understand this may be difficult for you, but the staff will do their best to make your stay in hospital as comfortable as possible. The staff will ensure that your bedside buzzer is within reach at all times for you to call for assistance.

Can I have visitors?

Your friends and relatives may visit as normal but should speak to the nurse in charge for further advice. Your visitors do not need to wear aprons, gloves or masks unless instructed to do so by the staff, but should take extra care to wash their hands when leaving your room and use the gel either outside the room or at the entrance to the ward.

It is important that they cover any cuts or wounds.

Visitor numbers should be restricted to 2 people in accordance with the local policy, and are reminded not to sit on the bed. In general is not advisable for babies or visitors who are unwell themselves to visit as they may be at risk of picking up an infection more easily.

What precautions will staff take?

All staff will wear protective clothing for example aprons and gloves when having physical contact with you. They have all been trained how to wash their hands correctly, and what measures are necessary.

A member of staff who is bringing your drugs, meals or drinks does not need to wear aprons or gloves but will either wash their hands or use the gel on exiting the room.

Can I leave my room?

We request that you do not leave your room unless given permission to do so by the nursing staff. You will be asked to keep your door closed at all times. If this begins to cause you a problem a nurse will be happy to discuss this with you.

Your treatment and investigations will not be delayed for example X-rays. The staff in these departments will take the relevant precautions to allow your treatment to go ahead safely. It may be possible to bring you back onto the main ward at a later stage once your infection is treated. This decision will be taken by the ward staff.

Where can I get further information?

For further advice you can speak to the Lead Nurse or Matron, contact the Infection Control Team on 01384 244174 or PALS on