



MEMORANDUM NOTE DE SERVICE

TO
À

All Ontario Region Nurses-in-Charge, Community
Health Nurses and Agency Nurses

FROM
DE

Shari Glenn
Director of Primary Health Care, Ontario Region
First Nations and Inuit Health Branch
Indigenous Health Services

Security Classification
Classification de Sécurité

Our file/Notre référence

Your file/Votre référence

Date: January 14, 2020

SUBJECT Infection Prevention and Control Practices

Infection prevention and control practices that reduce or eliminate sources and transmission of infection help to protect clients and health care providers from disease. Health care providers will cause harm to patients if the provider fails to adhere to basic infection control standards and processes. This applies to all clinical interactions regardless of physical environment. Non-adherence to infection prevention and control standards unnecessarily results in patient safety risks, unsatisfactory patient health outcomes and occupational health and safety risks for the nurse.

All care must be taken to eliminate the transmission of blood-borne viruses and microbial pathogens related to unsafe injection and urinary catheter practices. The following practices will be followed for all patient interactions that involve the administration of parenteral medications, the collection of venous and arterial blood specimens, and inserting a urinary catheter.

1. Wash hands immediately before and after the activity. Hand washing is the most important and basic technique in preventing and controlling transmission of infection.
2. Don appropriate protective wear e.g., gloves, mask, face shield, gown, etc.
3. Appropriate skin antisepsis and aseptic technique will be maintained throughout the procedure. If supplies become contaminated during the procedure (e.g., dropping a urinary catheter outside of the sterile field), the contaminated supplies are disposed of and new supplies are used.
4. Single use supplies must not be opened prior to being required and must be discarded immediately after the single use.
5. Sterile supplies will not be prepared in advance of use. Unwrapped or open sterile supplies will not be used and will be discarded (e.g., needles, syringes, intravenous catheters (butterflies, angiocaths), etc.) as they are no longer considered sterile. Prepare supplies immediately before using to ensure sterility up to the point of use.

It is essential that infection prevention and control practices be maintained.

If you are not familiar with the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, Ontario Region Infection Prevention and Control Standards, you are directed to review the *Infection Prevention and Control Manual* that is available on OneHealth using the following path: Nursing→Nursing Policies→Section V-Infection Prevention and Control.

Please contact a nursing practice consultant/manager/communicable disease nurse with questions or concerns.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SEL' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

CC: Nurse Managers
Nursing Practice Consultants
Nursing Agency Liaison