
The CDC emphasizes that this is a draft document, and policies and procedures should not be modified based on these preliminary recommendations.

In the draft, the CDC proposes expanding recommendations to all of health care, not just hospitals, and to address the emergence of new pathogens such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), the increase of multidrug-resistant organisms, and new practices and research. In accord with the expanded reach, the CDC is replacing the term “nosocomial infection” with “healthcare-associated infections.”

The draft reaffirms the Standard Precautions first recommended in the 1996 guideline, adding Standard Precautions for Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette, stemming from last year’s SARS epidemic.

**Highlights of proposals**

Some highlights of the proposals:

- Administrators need to make preventing transmission of infectious agents a priority. One proposal is to have at least 1 infection control professional per 250 occupied acute care beds.

- Specific recommendations are proposed for Standard Precautions. Also proposed are Expanded Precautions, which include:
  - contact precautions
  - droplet precautions
  - airborne infection isolation precautions
  - protective environment precautions for patients having stem cell transplants.

- Recommendations are outlined for preventing transmission of multidrug-resistant organisms (MDRO). Among these are:
  - observing Standard Precautions with the assumption that any patient could be colonized or infected with an MDRO
  - prioritizing patients with known or suspected MDROs for single rooms
  - using contact precautions for all patients infected or colonized with target MDROs
  - following recommended routine cleaning, sterilization, and disinfection procedures for patient care areas and noncritical devices and equipment
  - consider using expanded measures that have successfully controlled outbreaks of MDROs in health care facilities.

The draft includes an extensive discussion of the research and scientific data. The draft and instructions for submitting comments are at [http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/isoguide.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/isoguide.htm)