Infections in the Hospital: Expensive and Deadly

- Hospital acquired ("NOSOCOMIAL") infections are infections that patients develop while in the hospital for another reason.
- Nosocomial infections cost over $4.6 billion dollars nationally, every year. This is not small change.
- 88,000 deaths each year are attributed to nosocomial infections.
- Many nosocomial infections can be prevented by following simple infection control policies.

We Want You to Follow Isolation Policies

- Some bacteria or viruses require more than just hand washing.
- Isolation means: wearing gloves, gown, or masks as necessary to interrupt the mode of transmission.
- Different bacteria require different isolation. Information about the appropriate isolation can be found in the on-line Infection Control Manual.
- ISOLATION IS EFFECTIVE only when EVERYONE follows the policy. One cowboy not following the policy can spread a whole lot of bacteria.

We Want You to Wash Your Hands

- Hand washing is the single most effective way to prevent disease transmission.
- Soap and water is the traditional hand cleaning procedure, but alcohol foam is just as effective.
- Our most recent research indicates that hand washing is not done as often as necessary and there is room for MAJOR improvement.
- What are you going to do about it?

GO WASH YOUR HANDS!

Infection Control is All Around You: Making Your Environment Infection Control-Friendly

- Separate clean and dirty. Don’t clean soiled equipment in the clean storage area.
- Aseptic technique:
  o Only clean things that come in contact with patient.
  o Pay attention to sterile technique when sterile technique is required.
  o Use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as needed for universal precautions and isolation.
- Construction activities should remain behind closed doors. Dust and debris should NOT be visible outside the construction site. Patients should not be taken through a construction site.

Are YOU Compliant with Hand Washing Policies?

Do you wash your hands:
- Upon arrival at work?
- After handling blood or body fluids?
- After removing gloves?
- After using the restroom?
- Before eating?

If you don’t, START TODAY

Do you think your workplace is not Infection Control-friendly? Call Infection Control 684-5457.
**CASE 1**

**CLUES:** INFECTIONS AND ISOLATION POLICIES

**INVESTIGATORS:** E&O EMPLOYEES

**OUTCOME:** INFECTION CONTROL – SAFE WORK ENVIRONMENT

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**BLUE SIGN**

**RESPIRATORY ISOLATION**

- Visitors report to nursing station before entering.
- Appropriate respiratory protection required to enter.
- Keep room entrance door closed at all times.
- Wash hands upon leaving room.
- Follow Universal Precautions.

Questions? Call Infection Control at 684-5457

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**ORANGE SIGN**

**CONTACT ISOLATION**

- Visitors report to nursing station before entering.
- Please enter through anteroom.
- Appropriate respiratory protection required to enter.
- Keep room entrance door closed at all times.
- Wash hands upon leaving room.
- Follow Universal Precautions.

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**GREEN SIGN**

**ISOLATION**

- Visitors report to nursing station before entering.
- Please enter through anteroom.
- Appropriate respiratory protection required to enter.
- Keep room entrance door closed at all times.
- Wash hands upon leaving room.
- Follow Universal Precautions.

Questions? Call Infection Control at 684-5457