

The Dirty Dozen in Infection Control

Answer Key & Explanation

1. Isolation gown should be tied in back, fully covering torso and arms. Gloves need to cover gown at wrists.
2. No eating or drinking by staff is permitted in patient care areas where there is a reasonable likelihood of exposure from contact with contaminated items in the environment
3. Use of personal phones in patient isolation rooms is not permitted due to possible cross-contamination by infectious organisms. Phones should be used only when absolutely necessary, and only with a clean gloved hand.
4. Mask should completely cover both nose and mouth and be secured properly to the face.
5. Gloves will be worn whenever handling blood, body fluids, secretions or items contaminated with blood, body fluids, secretions or excretions. In isolation rooms, gloves need to be worn when entering the room. Hand hygiene will be performed after removing gloves.
6. Hair should be pulled back while performing patient tasks to eliminate risk of exposure to blood or body fluids and to prevent contamination of the patient's wound.
7. Soiled linens should be properly handled to prevent the transmission of infection. No linens (clean or dirty) should ever be placed on the floor.
8. Proper hand hygiene is the No. 1 defense against transmission of infection in the hospital. Alcohol gel dispensers should be placed in appropriate holders or on countertops in the room for easy accessibility.
9. Per OSHA guidelines, isolation waste such as dressings contaminated with blood or body fluids should be placed in the "red bag" or biohazard trash receptacles, not in regular trash.
10. Urine or other contaminated body fluids should be disposed of properly and not left on the patient bedside table next to food.
11. Urinary drainage bags should be kept below the level of the patient's bladder and off the floor, to allow urine to flow unobstructed and prevent bacteria from migrating back from the drainage bag.
12. Isolation precaution advisory signs should be placed outside the patient's door to alert/advise staff and visitors of the proper equipment needed prior to entering the room.