

# NICU Infection Control Staff Agreement

## Infection Control Goal – NO INFECTIONS!

### Advocacy

- All staff working in the unit will follow the standards and take personal responsibility to ensure optimum infection control behaviors in the unit.
- All staff will hold each other accountable to the infection control standards. Each person, no matter what discipline they are, will remind others of the standards when they see that they are not being followed.

### Hand Washing and Hand Hygiene

- All persons will use hand gel outside the door before they enter the NICU.
- When starting for the day, staff will wash with soap and water (up to the elbow) at the sink vigorously for about 3 minutes or use the alcohol-based hand gel.
- No watches or rings with stones or crevices are allowed by direct care providers in the unit. A conscious effort will be made to clean under gold bands.
- Long sleeves will be pushed up above the elbow when washing and when having patient contact.
- Routine hand hygiene rules (before and after patient contact, before and after putting on gloves and before and after touching equipment) apply. When coming to the bedside to silence an alarm, hands will be cleaned before touching the piece of equipment. If bedside equipment is cleaned per standard, it is acceptable to touch this equipment during patient care.

### Equipment Cleaning

- Bedside equipment (including the isolette doors, bedside table, monitor, pumps and respiratory equipment) will be cleaned at the beginning of the shift and then after breaks and meal periods.
- Shared equipment will be cleaned before and after usage.
- Stethoscopes, Kelly clamps and scissors will be cleaned with alcohol immediately prior to usage.
- Desk telephones and computer keyboards will be cleaned every 24 hours.
- Suction equipment will be changed when it is soiled.
- The counters around the sinks will be kept clean and dry.

### Bedside Space – Baby “Rooms” with No Walls

- Hands will be cleaned on the way in and on the way out of the baby’s “room”.
- Nothing can be taken from bed to bed without being cleaned – the one exception is unopened sterile supplies.
- Items will be cleaned before moving them to another patient bedside. Clean the arms of the chairs. Most chair pads can also be wiped off. A blanket will be placed over the seat of the swing prior to the baby using it.

- Pillowcases from the pillows will be changed between uses. When the parents are done using them, the pillowcase will be put in the dirty linen. A fresh pillowcase will be put on before the pillow is used by another parent.

## **Separation between clean and dirty**

- Clean items (pacifiers, thermometers, etc.) will be stored at the head of the bed and dirty diapers at the foot of the bed
- Perform tasks from clean to dirty. Hand hygiene will be done after dirty tasks.
- Separate water bottles will be used for flushing feeding tubes. They will be dated and timed when they are opened and replaced every shift.

## **Personal Items**

- Personal items will be kept in employee lockers. If they are in the unit, they will not be put at the bedside.
- No food or drinks are allowed in the unit.
- Cell phones will only be used outside the unit. When returning to the unit, hands will be cleaned again.
- Parents will be given a clean pillowcase to put their personal belongings in if a separate place is not available.

## **Ancillary Support**

- The bedside nurse will be consulted prior to ancillary staff performing any procedure involving direct patient contact. The nurse will observe if hand hygiene has been performed as necessary.
- Items on the bedside table or in the bed will be covered with a barrier. Equipment taken to the bedside will be cleaned before and after patient contact.
- As possible, ancillary support personnel will not be assigned both high risk patients outside of the NICU and NICU patients. "Clean" patients will be cared for prior to "dirty" patients.

## **Exposure to Illness**

- Acutely ill staff members will not come to work in the NICU. Upon their return, a mask will be worn if there are any remaining respiratory symptoms.
- Parents will be asked to stay at home if they are ill and then wear a mask after returning similar to the staff. Siblings or other visitors showing any sign of illness or have been exposed to any communicable disease, may not visit.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Courtesy of Torrance Memorial Medical Center*

(TMMC, 03/2008)