

XYZ HHA

Resistant Organism Policy

I. Policy Statement

To prevent the transmission of resistant organisms between and among staff and patients XYZ staff follow Standard Precautions and additional precautions as determined by the Case Manager with all patients who are known to be infected or colonized with a resistant organism. Field staff members will follow the established procedure for all patients harboring resistant organisms, including the communication of information, documentation, precautions to be taken, education of patients, caregivers and ancillary personnel, and cleaning of equipment.

II. Definitions:

Resistant Organism – any microorganism which is resistant to the effects of one or more antibiotics used in treatment of patients infected with that organism.

Colonization – The presence of microorganisms without multiplication and damage to the host.

Infection – The presence and multiplication of microorganisms in the tissue of a host. Characteristics of infection include fever, swelling, pain, and inflammation.

III. Documentation and Communication of Information

A. Start of Care: The RN reviewing the initial referral, whether verbal or written, shall verify the existence of any resistant organisms. The RN or PT completing the SOC assessment shall document the known presence of any resistant organism at the SOC and shall include this within the patient diagnoses as is appropriate. The RN or PT shall initiate any precautions that are deemed necessary as stated in this policy. The RN or PT completing the SOC assessment shall provide written documentation within the patient's Plan of Care regarding specific precautions which shall be followed. He/she shall include information regarding the presence of a resistant organism, and instructions regarding the precautions being implemented, to all XYZ HHA personnel who will be providing home care to the patient. When there are referrals to other professional disciplines, the RN shall provide the written information as above and a verbal report explaining:

- The presence of a resistant organism
- Whether the patient is colonized or actively infected
- The site of the colonization/infection
- The specific precautions to be taken by all personnel
- Any other pertinent information

The Case Manager who initiates Home Health Aide service shall document on the Home Health Aide Care Plan the presence of any resistant organism and the specific precautions to be followed during patient care. Verbal instructions shall be given to the Home Health Aide and reinforcement shall be provided during all supervisions.

B. During any Episode of Care: Any staff member who becomes aware of the presence of a resistant organism after the SOC shall report this information to:

- QI Coordinator or designee, using the Patient Infection Report Form (Refer to Reporting of Infections Policy)
- The Case Manager who will be responsible to document this information in the patient record and inform/educate all involved personnel regarding the existence of the resistant organism and precautions to be taken.

IV. Precautions

A. Colonized Patients without obvious wound or other drainage:

- Standard Precautions (refer to XYZ HHA Standard Precautions Policy)
- Hand washing (refer to XYZ HHA Hand washing policy)
- Gloves if contact with secretions is expected.

B. Infected Patients with uncontained wound or other drainage:

- Standard Precautions (refer to XYZ HHA Standard Precautions Policy)
- Hand washing (refer to XYZ HHA Hand washing Policy)
- Gloves, Gowns, Aprons, Eye Protection as needed for incontinent patients, patients with diarrhea or for procedures, dressing changes, linen changes, or other direct contact with potentially infectious materials, or when it is reasonably expected that personal clothing may become soiled. (Refer to XYZ HHA Policy for Personal Protective Equipment)
- Dressings double bagged in non permeable bags and discarded into regular trash
- Home Care Bag substitute: Plastic bag is used with disposable items dedicated to one patient use. Regular Home Care bag is not taken into the patient's home.

V. Patient and Caregiver Education

The Case Manager shall develop and document a plan for education of the patient and family/caregivers about resistant organisms and precautions necessary for the individual patient. Supplementary written materials may be provided.

VI. Equipment Cleaning:

Use disposable equipment dedicated to one patient for use as stated above. When disposable or dedicated equipment is not available, clean all equipment with 1:10 bleach solution or Spray Nine, place into a plastic bag and return to XYZ HHA with a Biohazardous Waste Label on the bag.