

Section: UTMB On-line Documentation	01.31 - Policy
Subject: Infection Control & Healthcare Epidemiology Policies and Procedures	
Topic: 01.31 - Transportation and Ambulating of Patients with an Infection or Communicable Disease	2.20.2025-Reviewed 1978-Author

01.31 - Transportation and Ambulating of Patients with an Infection or Communicable Disease

Purpose	To outline the appropriate procedures for transporting and ambulating potentially infectious patients throughout the UTMB complex
Audience	All employees of UTMB hospitals, clinics, Victory Lakes outpatient specialty care and surgical center, contract workers, volunteers, and students
Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Category specific barrier techniques shall be utilized for any patient in isolation throughout their transportation in the UTMB complex. The receiving area shall be notified of the patient's category of isolation prior to the patient's arrival. The transporter shall be informed of the patient's category of isolation prior to the transport time. The Standard Precautions Policy will be followed for contact with any and all blood and body fluids.
Nursing Personnel or Sending Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notify the transportation department regarding all patients on isolation who require transport. This should be done when telephoning the transportation department to request transportation. Notify the receiving area by telephone prior to transport of a patient on isolation.
Transportation Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow all isolation procedures for the type of isolation involved (see policy: 01.19 – Isolation Precautions). Transport patients by the most direct routes to their destination. Avoid contact with employees and visitors as much as possible. Disinfect wheelchairs and stretchers with a hospital-grade disinfectant after use for a patient on isolation and prior to returning the wheelchair/stretcher to service. Cleaning of wheelchairs will be focused on the seat, arm rest, and back rest. The metal portion of the wheelchair will be inspected for contamination with blood and other body fluids and once removed, all surfaces decontaminated with a hospital grade disinfectant. Cleaning of the stretchers will focus on the upper and lower surface of the stretcher pad. The metal portion of the stretcher will be inspected for contamination with blood and body fluids and once removed, all surfaces decontaminated with a hospital grade disinfectant.
Transportation of Patients on Contact,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patients on Contact, Extended Contact or XDRO Precautions must be transported on a stretcher or wheelchair covered with a sheet or other physical barrier.

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- Extended Contact, or XDRO Precautions
- The transporter should wear a gown and gloves to assist the patient into and out of the wheelchair/stretchers. Gowns and gloves are available on the nursing unit.
 - The hands of the transporter should be washed with an antimicrobial soap or an alcohol hand rub should be applied after gloves are removed.
 - Gowns and gloves should not be worn during transportation and ambulating the patient.

- Transportation of Patients on Airborne, Extended Respiratory or Droplet Precautions
- If the patient is on Airborne, Extended Respiratory or Droplet Precautions, the patient should be transported wearing a surgical mask. A mask should not be worn for the transporter.

- Ambulating Patients on Isolation Precautions
- Patients on Contact Precautions, Airborne or Droplet Precautions may be ambulated outside the patient's room using the following precautions.
 - The transporter should wear required PPE (gown, mask and gloves) to enter patient's room.
 - The hands of the transporter should be washed with an antimicrobial soap or an alcohol hand rub should be applied before entering patient's room and again after gloves are removed.
 - Gowns and gloves should not be worn to ambulate the patient. Gowns and gloves are to be removed inside the patient's room.
 - If the patient is on Airborne, Extended Respiratory or Droplet Precaution, the patient should wear a surgical mask when ambulating outside of room. A mask should not be worn for the transporter.
 - Cover all draining wounds before ambulating patient.
 - Do not ambulate patients who are incontinent (i.e., c. diff suspected or confirmed)
 - Patients who are on any type of Isolation should not go into unit food areas (galley).

Reference 01.19 – Isolation Precautions.
http://www.utmb.edu/policies_and_procedures/15931086