3.24 - Infection Control for Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs) in Labor and Delivery and in Nurseries

Purpose: To prevent pregnant patients and their newborns from acquiring an EID in the hospital.

Audience: Obstetricians, obstetrical nurses, neonatologists, neonatal nurses and anesthesiologists.

Policy Statements

I. All obstetrical patients admitted to the hospital will be screened for the EID prior to entering the hospital. Personnel who screen for an EID will wear an N-95 mask (fit tested), goggles, gown and gloves for MERS-CoV or H7N9 influenza.

A. Screening will take place in the Emergency Department.

B. Patients who screen negative for MERS-CoV or H7N9 influenza may enter Labor and Delivery as a routine admission.

C. Patients who screen positive for MERS-CoV or H7N9 influenza will have a surgical mask placed on them.

D. Patients being admitted to Labor and Delivery (L & D) may be accompanied only by a spouse or significant other and one other adult, if they screen negative for MERS-CoV or H7N9 influenza.

E. If the patient must wait for a bed in L & D, they will be escorted to a designated room or area while awaiting admission. If they screen positive for MERS-CoV or H7N9 influenza, they must continue to wear their mask until they arrive in their isolation room in L & D.

II. All Barrier Precautions (ABPs) for isolation of Obstetrical Patients with confirmed, probable or suspected MERS-CoV or H7N9 influenza

A. Patients with suspected MERS-CoV or H7N9 influenza will be admitted to their room on ABP and an ABP sign posted on the door frame. The door should be kept closed except for entry or exit.

B. All HCWs who enter the room will wear an N-95 mask (fit tested), goggles, gown and gloves for patients with MERS-CoV or H7N9 influenza.

C. Prior to leaving the room, the HCW will remove gloves,

goggles, and gown and discard them in the room. The HCW will leave the room, perform hand hygiene (handwashing or apply an alcohol hand rub), carefully remove the mask, discard the mask in a trash can and then perform hand hygiene again.

D. All HCWs who enter the labor and delivery rooms where patients with MERS-CoV or H7N9 are located must wear an N-95 mask (fit tested) goggles, gown, gloves and gloves.

E. Newborns whose mothers develop a respiratory illness from 2 days before to 7 days after delivery will be placed on ABP in the newborn nursery or the ISCU.

1. Newborns who are on ABP because they were exposed to their mothers with a respiratory illness at delivery may not be visited by their mothers until the following conditions are met:
   a. Mers-CoV infection has been ruled out
   b. H7N9 influenza has been ruled out
   c. If the mother has MERS-CoV infection, the baby may not have contact with the mother until her illness has cleared.
   d. If the mother has H7N9 influenza, she may visit her baby after the following conditions have been met:
      1) The mother has received antiviral medications for 48 hours
      2) Fever has fully resolved
      3) She can control coughs and secretions.
2. Before these conditions are met, the newborn should be cared for in the newborn nursery or ISCU isolation room by a member of the nursing staff or a member of the newborn's family who is well. Persons who provide care to isolated neonates must wear an N-95 mask (fit tested), a gown, gloves and goggles.
3. When the mother has met the above conditions for contact with her newborn, she may begin breast feeding.
4. When newborns must remain in the hospital for a prolonged period, they may be taken off of isolation when:
   a. Illness in the mother due to MERS-CoV or H7N9 influenza has been ruled out as well as influenza due to A H3N2, A H1N1 and B.

b. 14 days after birth if mother had infection with MERS-CoV infection or 10 days after birth if mother had H7N9 influenza.

III. Visitation in Labor and Delivery and in the nurseries.

A. Labor and Delivery (L&D)

1. Visitation in L&D will be limited to two persons, the spouse or a significant other and one other adult.
2. All visitors will be screened for the EID (H7N9 influenza or MERS-CoV) at the point of entry into the hospital.
3. Persons who screen positive for MERS-CoV or H7N9 will not be permitted to visit.
4. For patients on isolation for MERS-CoV or H7N9 influenza, visitors must wear an N-95 mask, goggles, gown and gloves. After the visitation, the nursing staff will assist visitors in the proper doffing of PPE.

B. Newborn nurseries and the ISCU

1. Visitation will be limited to one person, the father or a significant other.
2. All visitors will be screened for an EID (H7N9 influenza or MERS-CoV) at the point of entry into the hospital.
3. Persons who screen positive for MERS-CoV or H7N9 influenza will not be permitted to visit.