

CDC Updates Enhanced Barrier Precautions in Infection Prevention

Enhanced barrier precautions are an infection prevention intervention designed to reduce the transmission of multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs) in nursing homes. The precautions involve gown and glove use during high-contact resident care activities for residents known to be colonized or infected with an MDRO as well as those with an increased risk of contracting an MDRO.

These precautions are used in situations where contact precautions do not apply and where high-contact resident care activities may create an opportunity for MDROs to be indirectly transferred from one resident to another.



On July 12, 2022, the CDC published an update to broaden the use of enhanced barrier precautions to **include residents with indwelling medical devices or wounds (regardless of MDRO colonization or infection status) in addition to those residents with confirmed colonization or infection with an MDRO.** Additionally, the CDC states that, in the majority of situations, once enhanced barrier precautions are in place, they should be continued for the duration of the admission.

Examples of indwelling medical devices include central lines, urinary catheters, feeding tubes and tracheostomies/ventilators. Examples of high-contact resident care activities include dressing, bathing/showering, transferring, providing hygiene, changing linens, changing briefs or assisting with toileting, device care or use and wound care.

Enhanced barrier precautions apply to the following MDROs, among others:

- Pan-resistant organisms
- Carbapenemase-producing carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE)
- Carbapenemase-producing carbapenem-resistant *Pseudomonas* spp
- Carbapenemase-producing carbapenem-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* (CRAB)
- *Candida auris*

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Additional epidemiologically important MDROs may include, but are not limited to:

- Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)
- ESBL-producing *Enterobacteriaceae*
- Vancomycin-resistant *Enterococci* (VRE)
- Multidrug-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*
- Drug-resistant *Streptococcus pneumoniae*

Visit the CDC's website for more information:

- [Implementation of Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) Use in Nursing Homes to Prevent Spread of Multidrug-resistant Organisms \(MDROs\)](#)
- [Consideration for Use of Enhanced Barrier Precautions in Skilled Nursing Facilities](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about Enhanced Barrier Precautions in Nursing Homes](#)