

Cohorting Plan Guidelines

Facility Name:

Approved By:

Date of Origin:

Revised Date:

Definition:

Cohorting [the placement of individuals exposed to or infected with the same condition in the same location (e.g., room, unit, wing or building)] is a strategy that can be used when private rooms exceed capacity.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Isolation Precautions Guideline: Place together in the same room (cohort) individuals who are infected or colonized with the same pathogen and are suitable roommates. The goal of cohorting is to minimize interaction of infectious individuals from non-infected individuals as much as possible. Because of frequent contact and shared spaces, every interaction may be a risk factor for spreading infection. Early identification and rapid separation/isolation is the key to prevent additional transmission of an infectious disease.

Responsibility:

All staff are responsible for ensuring that infectious conditions are not spread to others within the facility.

Fundamentals:

While cohorting on a designated unit or wing is ideal, physical separation may be acceptable, if the distance is sufficient, and care can be provided using PPE appropriately. See specific details to consider below.

Space & Staffing Considerations

- Bedside isolation or isolation without walls can be achieved by:
 - Treating each bedspace as a private room and creating a visual barrier to define the spaces – Separating individual beds by a minimum of 6 feet
- Doors should be kept closed
- Staff are to adhere to appropriate precautions when caring for individuals
- Strict adherence to hand hygiene, appropriate use of PPE and appropriate environmental cleaning is required
- To the extent possible, the same staff should be responsible for care and services

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Change PPE between each interaction and treat each individual space as a private room
- Remove PPE and perform hand hygiene when leaving one isolated bedspace or before providing care to the other individuals in the room

Individual Care Items

- Dedicate care items and equipment to each isolated individual if possible
- If equipment cannot be dedicated to the isolated individual:
 - Clean and disinfect items before use on any other individual
 - Use equipment from a “well to ill” area
- Shared items that cannot be cleaned/disinfected should be discarded

Communicate to Visitors, Staff, Residents

To ensure transparency, facilities must communicate clearly with individuals and families, explaining the rationale for cohorting (minimizing exposure) and the transfer or move to another location in the building if needed.

CDC Cohorting References: [Isolation Precautions Guideline \(CDC\)](#) | [Norovirus Prevention and Control Guidelines for Healthcare Settings \(CDC\)](#)