

On-Site Assessment for Potential Invasive Group A Strep (iGAS) Transmission

Observations

Hand Hygiene (HH) – [CDC Hand Hygiene ICAR Tool](#)

- Alcohol based hand rub (ABHR) is the preferred method of HH in most healthcare situations.
 - Soap and water should be used when hands are visibly soiled, before eating and after using a restroom.
 - ABHR should be 60%-95% alcohol.
 - HH products should be easily accessible and available inside and outside of patient/resident rooms at minimum.
- HH should be performed:
 - Immediately before touching a patient; before performing an aseptic task (e.g., placing an indwelling device) or handling invasive medical devices.
 - Before moving from work on a soiled body site to a clean body site on the same patient.
 - After touching a patient or the patient's immediate environment.
 - After contact with blood, body fluids or contaminated surfaces.
 - Immediately after glove removal.

Wound Care – [CDC Wound Care ICAR Tool](#)

- Ensure appropriate wound care steps are followed in the correct order. Maintain separation between clean and soiled equipment/supplies to prevent cross-contamination.
- Potentially contaminated surfaces and reusable equipment should be cleaned and disinfected appropriately after wound care activities are complete.
 - Surfaces and reusable equipment should be cleaned and disinfected after every use, according to the manufacturer's instructions.
 - Disinfectants should be EPA registered and effective against the pathogens you are targeting (i.e., List P products if resident has history of *C. auris*).
 - Disinfectants should be used per the manufacturer's instructions, including adherence to kill/contact time.
 - Single-use equipment and supplies should never be reused.
- If scissors must be used for wound care, scissors should be dedicated to the patient and stored in a manner to prevent cross-contamination.
- Multi-dose medications (i.e., ointments, sprays, etc.) should be pre-aliquoted into container and should not enter patient's room. Disposable items that enter the room should not be re-used.
- Use of a facemask during wound care is recommended until the iGAS outbreak is over, and as needed per Standard Precautions.

Considerations for Potential iGAS Transmission

- Consult with the DPH SHARPPS Program for guidance and to determine if screening is recommended for patients at the facility.
- Review the facility's policies (specifically hand hygiene, cleaning/disinfection and Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions).
- Ensure the facility educates staff on signs and symptoms of GAS infection and the importance of not working while ill. The facility should have non-punitive sick leave policies that allow staff to not work when ill.
- What other services does the patient(s) receive (i.e., dental, podiatry, therapy)? What equipment do these services use and how is it cleaned/disinfected?