

THE BURN CENTER IS AN ISOLATION UNIT

The entire unit is considered an isolation area. Due to the pathophysiology of burns, the burn patient is susceptible to infections and must be protected from the introduction of bacteria.

Because of the loss of skin integrity and the drainage from the wounds, the burn and wound patient is also considered a potential source of infection.

THE ISOLATION OF BURN PATIENTS HAS A DOUBLE PURPOSE:

1. To protect the burn patient from infection.
2. To protect others from cross contamination including the caregivers.

WHAT MUST WE DO TO PREVENT INFECTIONS AND CROSS CONTAMINATION?

1. Frequent decontamination of hands by either 15- second washing with soap and water or by using waterless hand sanitizer. When we enter a room we must decontaminate our hands and when we leave a room we should decontaminate our hands.
2. We must wear scrubs provided by the hospital. The scrubs worn in the burn unit must be laundered by the hospital. Do not wear the scrubs home that have been worn while working. The burn nurse arrives and leaves work with street clothes and the hospital provided scrubs are worn while working.
3. Gloves and isolation gowns are worn during direct patient contact.
4. Only immediate family should visit critical burn patients.
5. Only 2 visitors per patient at a time at the bedside.
6. For direct patient contact (touching, holding, etc.) visitors should be instructed to wear gloves and isolation gowns.
7. No live plants or flowers are allowed in the Burn Center.
8. No visitors under the age of 12
9. Only if the patient's wounds are completely covered and not draining can they leave their bedside to visit in the Day Room.
10. All equipment, chairs, etc. must be wiped with antibacterial wipes when moving from patient to patient or when place out of the room.
11. Only disposable trays, dishes, utensils, etc. are taken into the patient rooms. At the end of a meal the disposable dishes, etc. are disposed of in the regular garbage in the patient's room.
12. Wound dressings removed from a patient are considered infective and are disposed of in the red trash bins in the red trash bins.
13. Patients cannot leave the burn unit unless they are being escorted to a procedure that cannot be done on the unit or it is part of physical therapy. At times a rehabilitating patient who does not have open wounds may receive permission to walk down the Burn Unit but this is not the norm.

BE SURE TO REVIEW THE ISOLATION POLICIES INCLUDED IN THIS CHAPTER.

BOTHIN BURN CENTER ISOLATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR VISITORS

- Please check at the nurses' station prior to entering a patient's room
- When entering a patient's room use hand sanitizer to cleanse your hands and follow isolation instructions. Wear gloves and yellow isolation gown for direct patient contact. Ask the nurse for instructions,
- If you are visiting more than one patient, cleanse your hands with hand sanitizer, change your isolation gown, and cleanse your hands again prior to visiting another patient.
- While you are visiting, please do not touch anything except the things for the patient you are visiting. Do not share food between patients, or move chairs, tables or pillows from one patient or bedside to another. If you need something ask one of the staff to help you.
- If you want to assist at meal times, you are welcome to do so. Please cleanse your hands before handling food.
- The bum unit kitchen is for staff use only. Ask a staff member to assist you in obtaining items from the kitchen.
- Cleanse your hands when you are ready to exit a patient room.
- The Bum Center has been designed to protect patients from infectious agents. No fresh flowers or plants are allowed in the Bum Center.
- Visitor traffic is controlled by the nurse for the safety of the patient.
- Visiting hours are from 11:00 am to 8 :30 pm
- Only 2 visitors at the bedside are allowed per patient at a time.
- It is recommended that only immediate family visit critical patients,
- Children under the age of 12 are not allowed at the bedsides.
- Immediate family of critical patients may be given unlimited visiting privileges with the approval of the Attending Physician and nursing staff.
- Pediatric patients may have one parent spend the night at the bedside.

**DEPARTMENTAL POLICY
INTENSIVE CARE BURN CENTER
TRAFFIC CONTROL AND VISITOR CONTROL**

POLICY: Traffic is controlled by the burn nurse for the safety of the patient.

PURPOSE: The Burn Center has been designed to protect patients from infectious agents. Visitors will be treated with utmost courtesy and respect but cannot be permitted to disrupt the patient's treatment schedule.

Bedside visits:

1. Immediate family, and/or significant others for critical intubated patients.
2. For non-critical patients the patient should be consulted as to who he would like to visit.
3. All visitors to the bedside must be over the age of 12
4. Pediatric Patients may have a parent or other adult family member stay with patient overnight.
5. The ICB Day Room is an extension of the patient's room and all isolation precautions are to be maintained. One patient at a time visiting in the Day Room.
3. Visiting Hours: 11:00am to 8:30pm.

PROCESS:

- I. Explain to visitors the protocol for entering unit:
 - A. Hands must be washed and/or waterless hand sanitizer used.
 - B. For direct contact with patient isolation gown and gloves must be worn and hair contained.
- II. Only two visitors at a time are allowed at the bedside.
- III. No visiting while wounds are exposed
- III. Unlimited visiting may be extended to relatives of critically ill patients on approval by the attending physician and/or Clinical Manager in consultation with burn center staff.
- IV. Patients who are not infected, whose wounds are contained in dressings without drainage and are well enough to leave the patient's room may visit with visitors in the Day Room.

Sponsoring Department or Committee	Approval Date
Burn Unit Medical and Clinical Directors	6/2012
Other Approvals	Approval Date
Burn Committee	
Past Approval Dates	
<i>Revised: 6/85, 1/05, 07/05, 8/2008</i>	
<i>Reviewed: 1/87, 4/88, 9/89, 1/94, 1/96, 8/97, 9/98, 4/99, 12/00, 12/01, 12/07</i>	