

Wound/skin conditions



Government of South Australia
SA Health

Infection Prevention and Control tips for initial clinic patient management



Aboriginal Health Council
of South Australia Ltd.

Patient Presents to Health Clinic (preliminary assessment at reception)

Patient has a wound or skin condition? (e.g. ulcer, cellulitis, sore)

Ask the patient to:

- Clean their hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand gel.
- Ensure the patients wound is covered with an appropriate dressing (e.g waterproof occlusive dressing) or clothing.
- Sit away from other patients (at least 1 metre) if unable to cover the wound.

Patient Assessment (by clinical staff)

Clinical staff to:

- Implement appropriate **standard and transmission-based precautions (TBP) - contact**, hand hygiene and recommended PPE based on patient presentation
- Use PPE for patient contact: gown and gloves. Add surgical mask and eye protection if there is blood and body fluid exposure risk.
- Note: Clinic to ensure staff are up to date with vaccinations as appropriate (e.g. diphtheria, influenza). Refer to local policy.
- Ensure patient keeps the wound covered with a dry, intact dressing (e.g. waterproof occlusive dressing).

Clinical Management of the Patient

- Manage patient as per usual practices.
- Consider differential diagnoses considering clinical presentation and current epidemiological factors.
- Provide patient information as appropriate. See Additional Information.
- After assessing or managing the patient, remove PPE as per manufacturer and local procedures and perform hand hygiene.
- Clean surfaces and equipment using detergent and disinfectant (as per manufacturers recommendations) wearing appropriate PPE (e.g gown and gloves +/- eye protection). Refer to local procedures.
- Manage linen and waste as per standard and transmission-based precautions

*Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Standard precautions always apply for all patients

TBP as per risk assessment



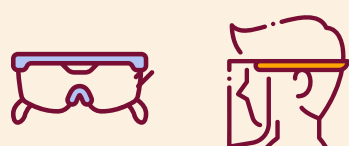
Hand hygiene



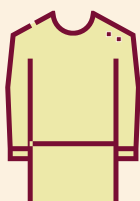
Surgical mask



Gloves



Eye protection/face shield



Long sleeved gown



PFR – P2/N95 (if required)

Additional Information

- Call Communicable Disease Control Branch on **1300 232 272** as required
- Provide patient information as required
- Useful resources:
 - [Healthcare: infection prevention and control \(IPC\) | SA Health](#)
 - [Staff protection from infections: infection prevention and control principles | SA Health](#)
 - [You've Got What? | SA Health](#)
 - [Health alerts | SA Health](#)