



# 8 Steps to Patient Isolation

**Always isolate on suspicion of infection, not confirmation.  
Isolate at the point that you decide to test for infection.**

<b>Step 1</b>	<b>Patient A is identified as having a known or suspected infection;</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Isolate Patient A and implement barrier precautions.</li> <li>Obtain appropriate sample.</li> </ul>
<b>Step 2</b>	<b>Is Patient A suitable to be nursed in a side room?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Yes</b> – Move Patient A to the side room as soon as possible and continue barrier precautions. Complete a terminal clean of the bed space.</li> <li><b>No</b> – Patient A is risk assessed as not suitable to be nursed in a side room (i.e., falls risk). Follow step 8.</li> </ul>
<b>Step 3</b>	<b>Do you have an available side room?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Yes</b> – Move Patient A to the side room as soon as possible and continue barrier precautions. Complete a terminal clean of the bed space.</li> <li><b>No</b> – Risk assess the patient who is in the side room following steps 4,5 &amp; 6</li> </ul>
<b>Step 4</b>	<b>Does the patient currently in the side room have an infection?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>If no</b>, they can be moved out of the side room into a bay. Move Patient A into the side room as soon as possible and continue barrier precautions.</li> <li>If the patient already nursed in the side room has an infection, is this a low priority infection? Patient to be moved out of the side room and into a bay. Example; a patient with ESBL can be risk assessed (continence, compliance with hand hygiene, catheter etc) to see if they can be safely managed in a bay, as could a patient with colonised MRSA. Both would be a lower priority for isolation than a suspected COVID positive or a patient with type 5-7 stools.</li> </ul>
<b>Step 5</b>	<b>Is the patient in the side room immunocompromised?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>If yes</b>, Patient A to remain in the bay but Step 7 must be followed.</li> <li><b>If no</b>, move the patient out of the side and move Patient A to the side room as soon as possible and continue barrier precautions</li> </ul>
<b>Step 6</b>	<b>Is the patient in the side room end of life?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>If yes</b>, Patient A to remain in the bay but Step 7 must be followed.</li> <li><b>If no</b>, move the patient out of the side and move Patient A to the side room as soon as possible and continue barrier precautions. Complete a terminal clean of the bed space.</li> </ul>
<b>Step 7</b>	<b>Do you have an available empty bay?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>If yes</b>, move Patient A into the empty bay. Complete a terminal clean of the bed space.</li> <li><b>If no</b>, can you cohort patients to empty a bay? Consider mixed sex bays, however, these must be supervised at all times. Please discuss with your manager</li> </ul>
<b>Step 8</b>	<b>If a side room or empty bay are not available or Patient A is not suitable to be nursed in a side room;</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure Patient A has barrier precautions at bedside</li> <li>Encourage good hand hygiene and cough etiquette</li> <li>For airborne infections (COVID, RSV &amp; Flu) ask the patient to wear a fluid resistant surgical mask especially when mobilising from the bedspace (if tolerated).</li> <li>Ensure patient has their own toilet facilities.</li> <li>Enhance cleaning in and around the patient bedspace</li> <li>Cleaning of high contact touch points in shared patient areas before and after use.</li> </ul>

**Remember early identification and prompt isolation of patients with suspected infections can help prevent outbreaks.**

Please contact the Infection Prevention Control Team if you have a patient with a suspected or confirmed infection or if you need any further support/advice. Mon-Fri 08:30-16:30hrs. Triage line 01246515870 or email [DCHST.infectioncontrol@nhs.net](mailto:DCHST.infectioncontrol@nhs.net)

Out of hours, contact the on-call manager.

