

Introduction

The aim of this leaflet is to give you an understanding of the reasons why your relative is being cared for in a single room.

It does not cover individual infections. If you require further advice on your relative's specific case, ask the ward staff and they will arrange for a member of the Infection Prevention and Control Team to come and visit to discuss your case with you.

Why do we isolate some patients?

There are three main reasons:

1. To protect other patients and staff from catching the bug that caused infection.
2. To protect other patients from catching infections which they may be prone to depending on the nature of their treatment.
3. To protect you from the other patients if you are susceptible to infections.
- 4.

What protective clothing will the staff wear?

This depends on how the infection is spread. Generally it will only be aprons and gloves. If the infection is

spread in the air, in droplets, then the staff will be wearing masks.

Will this affect my relative's treatment?

No! The healthcare staff will take the relevant precautions, and other departments your relative may visit will be made aware of their condition.

Can they leave the single room?

This depends on how their infection is spread. Discuss this with the nurse in charge of your relative's care because in some circumstances they may be allowed to leave the single room, e.g. for exercise.

Can my relative have visitors?

Visitors are not normally discouraged. However, for certain types of infection, some people may be advised not to visit.

For example, pregnant women or young children would be discouraged from visiting a patient with chickenpox.

Do visitors need to wear protective clothing?

Please speak to the nurse in charge for advice on what steps you need to take whilst visiting which could be wearing protective clothing.

Normally, visitors do not have to wear protective clothing. If they do both the patient and you will be advised what protective clothing to wear.

Remember please wash your hands before and after entering the ward and patients side room.

If you would like further advice please contact the infection Control team on:



01803 655757

References:

South Devon Healthcare & Torbay and Southern Devon Health and Care Trusts Isolation Policy 2018

Wilson J, Infection Control in Clinical Practice updated Edition, Elsevier, 2019

EPIC 3 Guidelines 2014



Torbay and South Devon
NHS Foundation Trust

PATIENT INFORMATION

The facts about Isolation

For further assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.