Prevention and Control of Infection

Purpose:

To provide a method for communicating responsibilities about preventing and controlling infection to licensed independent practitioners, staff, visitors, patients and families.

Policy:

LSUHSC-S University Hospital employs strategies designed to prevent and control healthcare-associated infections in patients, employees, and visitors. (The manager of each unit is responsible for ensuring that their personnel follow infection prevention and control policies and procedures).

I. ORIENTATION AND EDUCATION

A. The Infection Control Department assists in the development of infection prevention education for the new employee orientation program, the nursing orientation program and the physician orientation program. Infection prevention and control education is provided to all employees during their annual Campus Education Day and Medical Education Day.

B. The director of each department is responsible for department-specific orientation and infection prevention and control education.

C. Infection prevention education is provided to patients, their families, and visitors through the Patient Handbook, brochures, posters, and teaching provided by hospital staff.

II. DEPARTMENT SPECIFIC INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL POLICY DEVELOPMENT

A. The Infection Control Practitioner assists in the development, review, and revision of department-specific infection prevention guidelines which are reviewed every three years.

B. The Infection Control nurse and the respective department manager review department-specific guidelines for inclusion of current infection prevention information.

C. Each department manager ensures that the approved Infection Prevention and Control guidelines for their respective department are reviewed with their employees at least annually.
III. HOSPITAL WIDE INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The Infection Control staff, with the assistance and approval of the Infection Control Committee, develops and promulgates written infection prevention and control guidelines that are applicable to the hospital in general. These guidelines are reviewed and updated at least every three years, or sooner when national guidelines, regulatory legislation, or peer reviewed published literature indicates a need for revision. Hospital wide infection control guidelines are approved by the Infection Control Committee and presented to the Clinical Board for final approval. Department managers are responsible to review these guidelines with their employees and ensure that they are followed. The guidelines are accessible online at:

http://www.medcom.lsuhs.edu/cfdocs/policies/IC_Revisions.cfm

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