

March 27, 2024

Valley on Columbia and Woodside Village Staff:

You will soon see an increase in the circumstances when we ask you to wear a gown and gloves while caring for residents at Valley Senior Living on Columbia and Woodside Village. This is based on an updated CMS regulation that directs long-term care facilities to implement the **CDC Enhanced Barrier Precautions (EBP)** recommendations by April 1, 2024. We must follow the new recommendations on EBP to protect our residents and staff from multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs), which can cause serious infections and are hard to treat.

**WHY?**

Studies have shown that more than 50% of nursing home residents have MDROs on or in their bodies, especially in wounds or medical devices like urinary catheters. Most of the time people never know they are carrying these germs, but under certain conditions, they can cause serious infections. These germs can be transferred from one resident to another on staff hands if they aren’t cleaned between caring for residents, and on staff clothing during activities involving a lot of physical contact with the resident. A gown and gloves can keep these germs from getting on staff clothing and, in combination with cleaning hands with alcohol-based hand sanitizer, can prevent transfer to other residents. This approach focuses our efforts on the residents and activities that pose the highest risk for the spread of MDROs.

**WHAT?**

Enhanced Barrier Precautions require staff to wear a gown and gloves while performing high-contact care activities with all residents who are at higher risk of acquiring or spreading a targeted MDRO.

**These include the following residents**:

■ Residents known to be infected or colonized with a targeted MDRO (ex: CRE, C. auris);

■ Residents with an indwelling medical device including central venous catheter, urinary catheter,

feeding tube (PEG tube, G-tube), tracheostomy regardless of their MDRO status;

■ Residents with a wound, regardless of their MDRO status

**High-contact resident care activities where a gown and gloves should be used, which are often bundled together as part of morning or evening care, include**:

■ Bathing/showering,

■ Dressing,

■ Transferring residents from one position to another,

■ Providing hygiene,

■ Changing bed linens,

■ Changing briefs or assisting with toileting,

■ Caring for or using an indwelling medical device

■ Performing wound care

Unlike the residents who are on other Transmission-Based Precautions, such as for acute diarrhea, residents on **Enhanced Barrier Precautions** do not require placement in a private room, they can continue to participate in group activities, and they will remain on Enhanced Barrier Precautions for the duration of their stay in the facility.

**Please NOTE:** The gown and gloves used for each resident during high-contact resident care activities should be removed and discarded after each resident care encounter. Hand hygiene should be performed, and a new gown and gloves should be donned before caring for a different resident.

**How will I know when to use Enhanced Barrier Precautions**?

Gold EBP signs will be posted on the doors of residents for whom EBP are required. The signs will also include reminders of the activities during which a gown and gloves should be worn.

All staff will be assigned additional education on these changes through Healthcare Academy. If you have any questions before these changes go into effect on April 1, 2024, please do not hesitate to reach out for clarification.

**Kayla Porter, MSN, RN, CIC LTC-CIP**

Infection Preventionist

Valley Senior Living on Columbia

**Sarah Jacobson, RN**

Infection Preventionist

Woodside Village

To learn more about Enhanced Barrier Precautions, please visit Implementation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Use in Nursing Homes to Prevent Spread of Multidrug-resistant Organisms (MDROs) at https://www.cdc.gov/hai/containment/PPE-Nursing-Homes.htm