If you have any questions about isolation precautions, please speak to your doctor or nurse. The infection control nurses can also be contacted to give you information.

For further information, contact:

The Infection Control Team
Monday to Friday
8.30am - 4.30pm
(01935) 384401
What is Isolation Nursing?

Isolation nursing is used when someone has an infectious condition that could be passed on to others. It is not uncommon for isolation to be used in hospital. This will mean that you are nursed in a side room. Sometimes, if several patients have the same infection, they will be nursed in a bay together.

What will I notice?

A sign will be placed on the door to inform staff and visitors that special precautions are needed when entering and leaving the room/bay.

Staff will wear gloves and plastic aprons when attending to you. All staff will remove the protective clothing and clean their hands between caring for each patient. This is normal procedure for many nursing activities and is not special to isolation patients.

You will be asked to stay in your room/bay during the period that you are considered infectious. This is in order to prevent infection spreading to other patients. You will still be able to leave the room/bay for important treatment or tests. The department to which you are going will be informed that you have an infection and staff will wear gloves and plastic aprons when attending to you.

Depending on the type of infection, it is also important, if you are in a side room, that the door of the room is kept closed.

How long will this last?

Precautions will continue until the infectious period is considered to be over. This varies depending on the disease or type of infection. Sometimes this may be a few days, or in the case of MRSA or diarrhoea, can be for longer. This depends on how you respond to the treatment given. The isolation nursing will be stopped as soon as it is possible.

WHAT ABOUT MY VISITORS?

Your visitors will be asked to use alcohol gel on their hands on exiting your room/bay. Depending on the infection, it is advised that you keep visitors to close family/friends until isolation precautions have stopped. Visitors are asked, when first visiting, to speak to your nurse before entering the room. Any special instructions can then be given. It is not normally necessary for visitors to wear gloves and aprons but they do need to wash their hands/use gel when they leave the room.

It is advised that babies or very sick family/friends do not visit until the precautions have been stopped.

Please ask visitors not to bring in any flowers. They can be an infection risk by collecting dust and germs.

Isolation and MRSA

It is sometimes necessary to check several patients in a bay to see if they have MRSA on their body. MRSA is not always shown by infection. Swabs will be taken from any wounds that you have. A nose swab and a swab from the groin will also be taken. Results can take 4 days to be processed and you will be in isolation during this time. This does not mean that you have MRSA. It is only a check, most patients in this situation are found NOT to have MRSA.

Please ask for the Information about MRSA leaflet for further information.