

Standard PCI.07.01

The hospital provides resources and equipment to protect staff, health care practitioners, patients, and visitors from biological, physical, and chemical hazards, and these are readily available for use.

Intent of PCI.07.01

Hand hygiene (such as the use of sanitizers), barrier techniques (such as the use of personal protective equipment), and disinfecting agents are fundamental tools for proper infection prevention and control and thus need to be available at any site of care at which they could be needed, including laboratories, other areas where specimens are handled, and laundry facilities. Staff and health care practitioners must use appropriate personal protective equipment when indicated, in accordance with laws and regulations and applicable infection control guidelines, and use appropriate hand hygiene methods when indicated. Examples include wearing gloves and a face shield when suctioning a patient, or using gloves, gown, face shield, and appropriate face masks such as N95 or powered air-purifying respirators (PAPRs) for patients in isolation due to a communicable disease and performing hand hygiene prior to and after provision of patient care.

The hospital identifies those situations in which personal protective equipment such as respirators, masks, eye protection, gowns, or gloves are required for protection against biological hazards, including high-risk pathogens that require special isolation precautions such as N95 masks, PAPRs, or higher-level protective gowns; provides the needed equipment; and trains staff and health care practitioners in their correct use. Liquid soap and water, alcohol-based hand sanitizers, and other appropriate disinfectants are in areas where handwashing and hand-disinfecting procedures are required. When personal protective equipment is required, it is readily available for use. It is important to follow guidelines for ensuring that liquid soap dispensers are thoroughly and properly cleaned before refilling. Staff are educated in proper handwashing, hand-disinfection, and surface-disinfection procedures and proper use of personal protective equipment. Patients and visitors are also educated on proper hand-disinfecting procedures and when they are required to use personal protective equipment; for example, when visiting a family member in contact isolation or when a patient on airborne precautions is being transported through the organization.

Measurable Elements of PCI.07.01

1. The hospital identifies situations in which personal protective equipment is required.
2. The hospital ensures that appropriate personal protective equipment and hand hygiene agents are readily available when needed. (*See also* IPSG.05.00, MEs 1 and 2; FMS.09.01, ME 1)
3. Staff are trained and correctly use personal protective equipment in each identified situation.
4. The hospital implements environmental disinfecting procedures for areas and situations in the hospital identified as at risk for infection transmission.
5. Liquid soap and running water, hand disinfectants, and single-use towels are provided in areas where handwashing and hand-disinfecting procedures are required, and hand air dryers are not used in patient care areas. (*See also* IPSG.05.00, MEs 1 and 2)
6. Patients and visitors are educated on when they are required to disinfect their hands, when transmission based precautions such as isolation precaution must be followed, and how to correctly use personal protective equipment when applicable. (*See also* IPSG.05.00, MEs 1 and 2)

Standard PCI.07.02

The hospital implements processes to support preparedness for epidemiologically significant infectious diseases or special pathogens.