

Infection Prevention and Control

Isolation and barrier nursing

Patients may need to be nursed in “isolation” or “barrier nursed.”

We carry out isolation nursing by placing a patient in a single room or side room.

In barrier nursing, a patient stays in a section of a ward shared with other patients (bay). Extra safety measures are used to stop germs spreading.

Why we isolate or barrier nurse

- To reduce the risk of spreading infections or antibiotic resistant germs to others.
- To protect patients from infection if they have a weak immune system due to illness or a medicine.

Where are patients nursed?

The Infection Prevention and Control team (IPCT) support the ward staff to decide where patients will be nursed. We try to keep patients on their original wards where possible. For isolation nursing, if a single room is not available on your current ward, you might need to move to a single room on another ward.

The quality of nursing care you receive will be the same whether you are in a side room or the main ward.



Patient Information

What will staff wear?

Staff may wear personal protective equipment (PPE) to reduce the risk of spreading the infection or germ. PPE can include gloves, aprons, goggles, visors, and masks.

The type of PPE staff wear depends upon what activity they are doing, and how the infection or germ is spread.

Can I leave my bed area or room?

If you are being nursed in isolation, or barrier nursed, do not wander around the ward or hospital. This may pass the germ to other people. Your nursing team will advise you on your specific infection, and how best to protect yourself and others.

If you're cared for by isolation nursing, you'll be asked to keep the isolation room door closed. If you're worried about this, please talk to the nurse in charge.

In most cases, treatment needed in other departments (X-rays) are still done under careful guidance to stop any spread of infection. Your medical team may decide non-urgent treatment can wait until a later date when you may no longer need isolation or barrier nursing. This will be explained to you.

Visitors

You may have visitors, but please seek advice from staff on the ward.

We ask all visitors and staff to check with the nurse in charge before entering a side room, as patients may be receiving isolation nursing.

You can identify isolation rooms by a coloured red, blue, or purple hand sign on the door (see Figure 1).

Patient Information

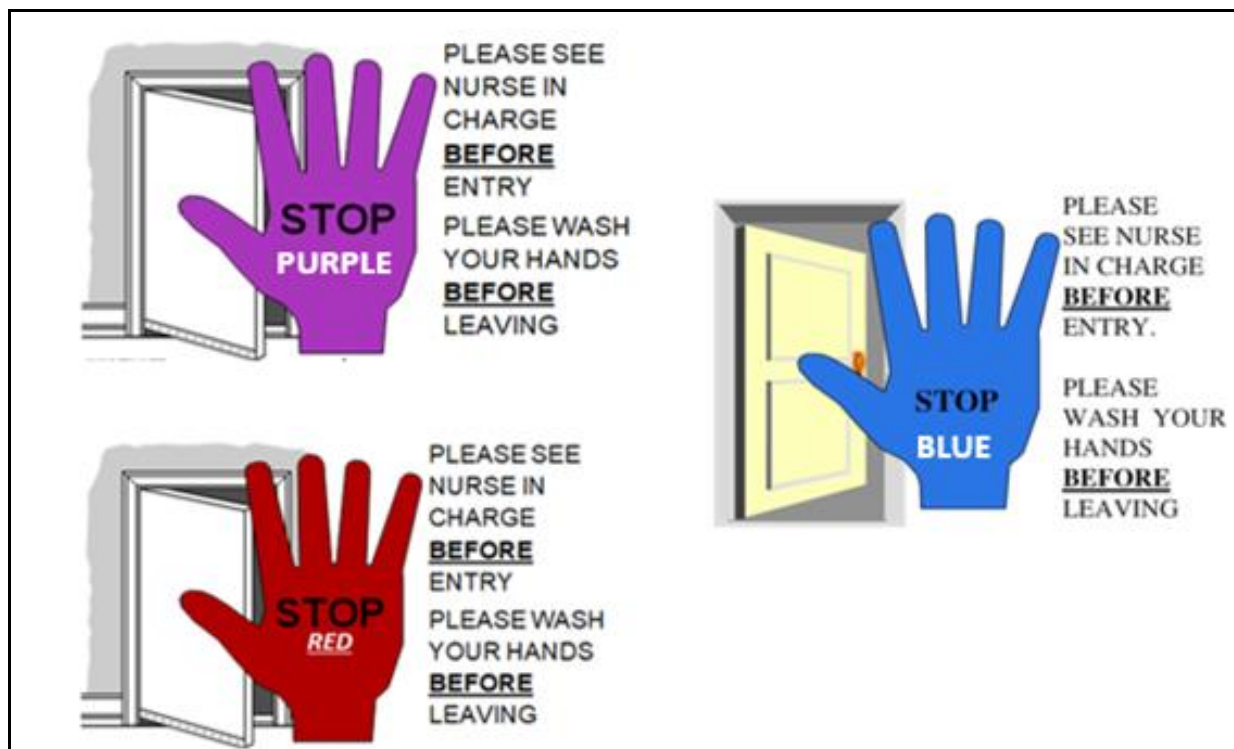


Figure 1: Isolation hand signs

Visitors must clean their hands when entering and leaving your room or bed space using either alcohol gel or soap and water. In some cases, it's important that they only use soap and water to make sure the germ or infection does not spread.

Nursing staff will let you know whether alcohol gel or soap and water is best to use. However, you and your visitors are welcome to ask ward staff.

It's unlikely your visitors will need to wear PPE. If they do, the nursing staff will let you know.

It's important that visitors do not sit on the bed. This can transfer germs. Please ask ward staff if you need help with seating.

When is isolation or barrier nursing stopped?

This will depend upon the reason for isolation. It can be anything from a few days to your whole hospital stay.

Patient Information

What if I have more questions?

The IPCT help staff with the prevention and management of all infections across the Trust. You can contact them by telephone or by post:

Infection Prevention and Control Team

University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust

Clifford Bridge Road, Coventry CV2 2DX

Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

024 7696 4791

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please contact 024 7696 4791 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke-free policy.

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