

Patient Education

Oncology – 7-Southeast, 7-Northeast, and 8-Northeast



Prevent the Spread of Infection

For visiting oncology patients in isolation

Feel free to ask questions or share concerns with the nurse caring for your family member or friend. You may also ask to speak with the charge nurse.

Thank you for coming to visit your family member or friend!

Patients are placed in “isolation” because they have a bacteria or virus that could be passed to others. Please help us protect you and others in the hospital by using general and special precautions.

Follow These General Precautions:

- Good hand-washing is the first line of defense to protect you and others. Wash your hands well with soap and water or a hand cleansing gel when you **enter** and **leave** a patient’s room. For patients with orange isolation signs, hands **MUST** be washed with **soap and water** (no alcohol gel).
- **DO NOT** wear protective gear outside of the patient’s room. Use laundry carts for gown disposal and wastebaskets for gloves and masks.
- If you bring food to the patient, discard any uneaten portion. Patients in isolation may not enter the nutrition kitchens where food is normally stored. If you want to use the nutrition kitchens, please ask a staff member for help.
- If you remove personal items from the patient’s room, place them in a plastic bag, found in the top drawer of the isolation cart. Seal the bag and take the items home. If you bring personal items into the patient’s room (like a purse or backpack), place them in a plastic bag before entering the room and remove the items from the plastic bag before leaving the room. The bag can be thrown away in the room.

- If protective gear is not available or you need help, go to the nurse's station and let the staff know what you need.
- Do not place any food tray that has been in the patient's room on the isolation cart outside the room or on the hallway floor. When the patient is through with the tray, call the nurse to remove the tray.

Follow These Special Precautions (on the colored sign outside the patient's room):

Follow the instructions on the colored sign before you enter the patient's room. Then ask the nurse for further instructions. Please help children follow these special precautions.

- **Yellow Sign (*Contact Isolation*)**
 - Protective gear (gloves and gowns) is worn by visitors and staff entering the room and at all times while in the room.
 - Dietary aides do not put on a gown or gloves before bringing the food tray, since they will not touch anything in the room. Please make sure that the over-bed table is cleared for meal delivery.
 - The door may stay open if the patient prefers.
- **Orange Sign (*Contact Isolation for C. difficile or norovirus*)**
 - Hands **MUST** be washed with soap and water (no alcohol gel).
 - Protective gear (gloves and gowns) is worn by visitors and staff entering the room and at all times while in the room.
 - Dietary aides do not put on a gown or gloves before bringing the food tray, since they will not touch anything in the room. Please make sure that the over-bed table is cleared for meal delivery.
 - The door may stay open if the patient prefers.
- **Green Sign (*Droplet Isolation*)**
 - Visitors and staff should always wear gowns, gloves, masks and eye protection.
 - The door to the patient's room should remain closed after persons enter or leave the room.
 - Dietary aides do not deliver or remove trays.

Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or health care provider if you have questions or concerns. UWMC clinic staff are also available to help at any time.

Your Provider's Name:

Phone:

- **Bright Pink Sign (*Respiratory Isolation – patients admitted to a negative pressure isolation room*)**
 - Protective gear (gloves, gowns, masks, and eye protection) is worn by visitors and staff entering the room and at all times while in the room.
 - Both doors to the room should remain closed after persons enter or leave the room.
 - Dietary aides do not deliver or remove trays.
- **Blue Sign (*Airborne Communicable Disease Isolation – patients admitted to a negative pressure isolation room*)**
 - Visitors and staff are required to wear a special mask as well as a gown and gloves.
 - Both doors to the room should remain closed after persons enter or leave the room.
 - Dietary aides do not deliver or remove trays.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
MEDICAL CENTER
UW Medicine



8-Northeast

Box 356098

1959 N.E. Pacific St. Seattle, WA 98195