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Standard precautions

Core Nursing Essentials Infection Control & PPE

Standard precautions apply to every patient. Select protection according to expected exposure, including hand hygiene, sharps safety and equipment reprocessing.

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Introduction & key concepts

Standard precautions apply to every patient. Select protection according to expected exposure, including hand hygiene, sharps safety and equipment reprocessing.

Nursing responsibilities

- Check identity, consent, the relevant observations and the purpose of the assessment.
- Record the finding, context and response using the approved clinical record.
- Escalate uncertainty or deterioration to the responsible professional; do not use a study note as a standing treatment order.

Clinical example & examination focus

In a viva, explain standard precautions in your own words, identify the observations needed and state a limitation. Compare the finding with the patient's baseline rather than assuming one number or label gives a diagnosis.

Quick Revision

Standard precautions apply to every patient. Select protection according to expected exposure, including hand hygiene, sharps safety and equipment reprocessing.

Frequently asked question

Can this summary replace practical training?

No. Use your prescribed learning material and the institution's current protocol with qualified supervision.

References & review status

- CDC - Core infection prevention practices (https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/hcp/core-practices/index.html) - 12 April 2024. Standard precautions and risk-based protection.

Sources checked for the stated scope on 26 November 2026. Original study synthesis; independent clinical review is not claimed. Source attribution is not a copyright-clearance certificate.

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