Delivering Patient Trays to Patients in Isolation
How Infection is Spread

- Direct contact
- Indirect contact
- Droplet
- Airborne
- Common vehicle
Contact Precautions

• Private room
• Door can be open
• Gown and gloves on entering room
• Remove gown and gloves on exiting room
• Gowns can not be re-used
Droplet Precautions

• Private room
• Door can be open
• Mask prior to entering room
Airborne Precautions

- Dietary staff will not be delivering trays to patients in airborne precautions
Check appropriate precaution box

**INFECTION CONTROL PRECAUTIONS**
In addition to Standard Precautions

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**VISITORS CHECK WITH NURSE BEFORE ENTERING ROOM**

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<th>Precaution Type</th>
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| **Airborne Precautions** | - PAPR (Powered Air Purifying Respirator)  
- Negative pressure room |
| **Droplet Precautions** | - Surgical mask within 3 feet of the patient |
| **Contact Precautions** | - Gown and gloves required upon entering room.  
- Use dedicated equipment  
- Obtain isolation cart from CSP  
- Environmental cleaning with 1:10 dilution of bleach left in place 10 min |

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**DOOR**
- Must be kept closed
- May be left open
Is it High Risk to Deliver Trays to Patients in Isolation?

• Not if you understand how infections are spread.
• Walking into a room to simply deliver a tray is not a risk.
• Dietary personnel will not be delivering trays to patients in airborne precautions.
• Dietary personnel won’t have direct contact with patients when delivering trays.
Aren't the nurses paid more than us because they have been specially trained to handle high risk patients?

- Nurses are trained to provide patient care to all types of patients.
- Nurses provided direct patient care, Dietary personnel do not.
- Nurses come in contact with all kinds of bodily fluids, but know how to provide care safely.
- Nurses are trained to care for patients using standard precautions
Will I Get Sick Delivering a Tray to a Patient in Isolation for C. diff?

• You will not get sick delivering a tray to a patient in isolation for C. diff.

• C. diff is not airborne, it requires direct or indirect contact for transmission to occur.

• C. diff is spread by the fecal/oral route.

• You will not be touching the patient.
Why you Won’t get C. diff from Delivering Patient Trays

Background: Pathogenesis of CDI

1. Ingestion of spores transmitted from other patients via the hands of healthcare personnel and environment

2. Germination into growing (vegetative) form

3. Altered lower intestine flora (due to antimicrobial use) allows proliferation of C. difficile in colon

4. Toxin A & B Production leads to colon damage +/- pseudomembrane

Isn't this creating extra work? Won't some zones get unfairly busy because they are populated with more isolation patients than other zones?

- Some zones do have more patients in isolation than others.
- It will increase the time it takes to deliver a tray when the patient is in isolation.
- It is best for our patients to have their trays delivered while the food is still hot.
Our patients are sick and have lowered immunity. Won't we increase our patients' risk of picking up infections by going from isolation to non-isolation rooms?

- Delivering trays to patients in isolation will not increase the patients' risk.
- Barriers (gowns and gloves) will prevent transmission of infections from patient to patient.
- Gowns and gloves are discarded after one use.
What are the Reasons for Delivering Trays to Patients in Isolation?

• Food should never be left for prolonged periods of time
• Patient satisfaction
• Diabetic patients