

INFECTIOUS DISEASES - II
INFECTION CONTROL IN HOSPITAL PRACTICE
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Abstract: *Healthcare associated infections are a major cause of morbidity and mortality posing challenge to the treating clinicians. Considering this along with prolonged stay and the cost of medicare, efforts should be made to make the hospitals as safe as possible by preventing such infections. Proper adherence to infection control by healthcare providers is a highly effective strategy in reducing hospital acquired infections. Measures of infection control include observing hand hygiene, identifying patients at risk of nosocomial infections and following standard precautions to reduce transmission. Environmental factors and architectural layout of both inpatient and outpatient areas also needs to be taken care to control spread of infection.*

Keywords: *Hospital acquired infection, Infection control, Hand hygiene*

Points to Remember

- *Design of patient care areas, operating rooms, air quality, water supply and the laundry can significantly influence the transmission of HAI.*
- *In high risk areas, the air handling units designed to provide clean air should have high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters.*
- *Nebulisation machine, preferably use disposable mask and tubing per patient. The mask and T shaped part should be washed with mild soap and water.*
- *Practicing hand hygiene before every episode of patient contact and after any activity or contact that potentially results in hands becoming contaminated reduces the risk of cross-contamination.*

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