INFECTION CONTROL

Infections kill patients.
Sepsis is very difficult and expensive to treat. In ICU probably the
Most common form of infection is nosocomial.

Unwashed hands are the most important source of cross infection.

We effectively 'barrier nurse' every patient.
Clean hands before and after each patient contact and individual task. (NB and touching
computer keyboards and curtains)
Use universal precautions and personal protective equipment.
Remove jewellery and wristwatches. Tie long hair back.
Each patient has a stethoscope for examination at his or her bed space to prevent cross-
infection.
All central lines and are impregnated with an antimicrobial agent.

Guidelines for Insertion of Central lines

1) Clean hands
2) Prepare all materials required prior to insertion to avoid interruption central line
   packs are available on the unit and should be used in conjunction with a clean
trolley.
3) Position patient optimally, don't accept inadequate arrangement
4) Choice of site is not vital, however, subclavian route may have a lower rate of
   infection (avoid subclavian in severe respiratory failure or coagulopathy)
5) No shaving of area; hair cutting is acceptable
6) Prepare the patients skin with Hydrex. (Chlorhexidine gluconate solution 2.5% -
   Chlorhexidine gluconate 0.5% in an alcoholic solution) Betidine can be used if
   the patient is allergic to chlorhexidine.
7) Allow 2 minutes drying time.
8) Surgical antiseptic hand wash with hibiscrub.
9) Full sterile technique including gown, gloves, large drapes and surgical mask
   goggles/mask with visor for high-risk patients)
10) All connectors must be attached at the time of insertion in order to reduce the
    number of manipulations of the line.
11) A transparent occlusive dressing must be applied at the time of insertion.
12) Clean hands post procedure, before the documentation is commenced
13) Documentation must be completed on the CIS and include:
    Line site, type and insertion length
    Record of any difficulties during the procedure
    Post X-ray check of line position and complications
15) The nurse looking after the patient is available for support and must assist the
    procedure by highlighting any breaches in asepsis.

FB/OB/SB/CMcG Jan 2006