

# 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.**