

# Standard precautions

**Standard precautions** must **always** be used when caring for all patients, regardless of their infection status



**Perform hand hygiene**



**Clean and reprocess reusable patient equipment**



**Use personal protective equipment (PPE)\***



**Perform routine environmental cleaning**



**Use respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette**



**Handle and store waste safely**



**Use aseptic technique**



**Handle and store linen safely**



**Use and dispose of sharps safely**

\*When used as part of **standard precautions**, PPE protects against probable exposure to blood and body substances. When used as part of **transmission-based precautions**, PPE services as a barrier to specific means of transmission of infectious agents.

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