Infection prevention and control measures when caring for patients with suspected or confirmed respiratory diphtheria
A summary

Apply standard precautions for all patients at all times.
Prior to any interaction with a patient, health and care workers should assess the likelihood of potential exposure to infectious agents for themselves and others and should take precautions accordingly. This includes, for example, hand hygiene according to the WHO 5 moments, patient placement and the selection and use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

Apply droplet precautions in addition to standard precautions.

Patient
- Place the patient in a well-ventilated single room, or cohort patients with confirmed diagnosis:
  - Separate from others by at least 1 metre and draw the curtain between patient beds;
  - Limit movement out of the hospital room;
  - Patient to wear a medical mask, for source control whenever outside the room and are able to tolerate.

Health and care worker
Before entering the room and during patient care:
- Perform hand hygiene;
- Wear appropriate PPE upon entering the room or when <1 metre in distance;
  - Well-fitted medical mask;
  - Based on risk assessment wear eye protection, gown, gloves;
  - Refrain from touching eyes, nose or mouth with contaminated gloves or ungloved hands.
- Avoid contaminating surfaces not involved with direct patient care (e.g. door knobs, light switches, mobile phones);
- Use disposable or dedicated patient equipment when possible.

After exiting the patient’s room:
- Remove PPE in the designated area or just before leaving the room and perform hand hygiene;
- Clean and disinfect medical equipment between use if sharing between patients.

Visitors
Instruct visitors on the following:
- Respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette;
- How to perform hand hygiene according to the WHO 5 moments;
- How-to put-on PPE prior to entering the room with their family member;
- Remain in the room and care only for their family member;
- How to remove PPE and perform hand hygiene when leaving the room.

WHO 5 moments of hand hygiene

1. BEFORE TOUCHING A PATIENT
2. BEFORE CLEAN/ASEPTIC PROCEDURE
3. AFTER BLOOD FLUID EXPOSURE
4. AFTER TOUCHING A PATIENT
5. AFTER TOUCHING PATIENT SURROUNDINGS

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