

# INFECTION CONTROL IN CRITICAL CARE

**C**ritical care areas are ICU, CCU, NICU, SICU and O.T.s. Possible Nosocomial Pathogens are MRSA, Klebsiella species, E.coli, Enterococci, Pseudomonas species and Candida species. Sources of Infection can be IV lines, Catheters, Ventilators, Air conditioning ducts Health care personnel, Visitors and Staff.

## Prevention of Infection in critical care:

### VISITORS

Reduce number of visitors coming to healthcare settings.

Visiting hours of hospital or healthcare setting should be less and specified.

Mask for visitors is also needed. Hand shaking, kissing and hugging should be prohibited. Flowers & other items for patients should be prohibited.

Healthcare staff from different departments visiting friends should be restricted.

### HOSPITAL PERSONNEL

It is responsibility of ICT & ICC to train and sensitize persons to the problem of infection. Formation of ICT, ICD, ICN and ICC etc. is essentially needed.

Regular audit is needed in the facility regarding infection control.

### SCREENING

Screening of patients and health care providers is necessary for various nosocomial infections.

### CARRIERS

Identification, isolation and management of carriers is also required.

### CARE OF ENVIRONMENT

Regular scrubbing and cleaning of surfaces is essential.

Proper and appropriate use of disinfectants is must.

Surfaces should be cleaned with proper chemical. Instruments should be cleaned properly before sterilization.

Proper care of AC ducts are also to be kept in mind.

Proper cleaning of linen is necessary.

### Infection Control Policy

Infection control policy is needed keeping in view needs of the facility. Implementation of these policies require constant education and monitoring. Investigation of outbreaks especially MRSA, VRE etc should be a regular feature. Antibiotics Should be used in accordance with antibiotic policy. Isolation of MRSA patient is a must.