

# Infection Prevention Quick Guide: Enhanced Barrier Precautions

Enhanced Barrier Precautions (EBP) are an infection control intervention designed to reduce transmission of drug-resistant organisms. EBP uses targeted gown and glove use during high-contact resident care activities. These precautions are applicable for nursing home settings only.

Point your phone's camera at the QR code to read the CMS memo (3/20/24) about EBP in nursing homes.



## Infection Prevention Checklist



### 1. When to use EBP:

- a. One or more of the following situations apply:
  - i. Resident has a multidrug-resistant organism (MDRO) infection or colonization (*when Contact Precautions do not otherwise apply*)
  - ii. Resident has a wound that requires a dressing *regardless of MDRO status*
  - iii. Resident has an indwelling device (e.g., urinary catheter, central line, feeding tube) *regardless of MDRO status*
  - iv. EBP has been recommended by public health authorities

AND
- b. Resident is **not** on a unit or in a facility where ongoing MDRO transmission is documented or suspected

2. **Resident placement:** No private room is required. Residents on EBP are not restricted to their room.

3. **Door signage:** Place a sign outside the resident's door indicating the type of precautions and personal protective equipment to be used. Example of an EBP sign from CDC:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/containment/enhanced-barrier-precautions-sign-P.pdf>

4. **Personal protective equipment (PPE):** Wear a gown and gloves during high-contact resident care activities.

- a. High-contact resident care activities include: dressing, bathing/showering, transferring, changing linens, providing hygiene, changing briefs or assisting with toileting, device care or use, and wound care

5. **Focus on hand hygiene**

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6. **Duration of EBP:** Use EBP for the entire length of the resident's stay in the facility (or until wounds heal or device is removed).

## Enhanced Barrier Precautions: How to Share the News



1. **To the resident and those authorized to receive health information:** During care activities that have a higher risk of spreading dangerous germs, we will be wearing a gown and gloves. This is to help keep you, staff, and visitors safe. We will also be cleaning our hands often and encourage you to do the same.  
  
<Add information to instruct visitors about any facility policy regarding what PPE they need to wear when visiting a resident on Enhanced Barrier Precautions.>
2. **To healthcare workers:** This resident is on Enhanced Barrier Precautions. You must wear a gown and gloves when performing high-contact resident care activities like dressing, bathing, or assisting with toileting. These activities have the highest risk for spreading drug-resistant germs, so it's important that we wear PPE during these times. Please also make sure we have an Enhanced Barrier Precautions sign posted on the resident's room door. Thanks for being consistent with these infection prevention measures!

## Additional Resources



VDH Infection Control Precautions & Considerations by Healthcare Setting  
> Enhanced Barrier Precautions for Nursing Homes webpage:

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/haiar/ip/ipc-by-healthcare-setting/>

- VDH resources include an implementation algorithm, webinar slides, and frequently asked questions
- CDC resources include door signage, observation tool, posters and pocket cards, and sample letters