

# HOSPITAL VS. HOME SETTING PRECAUTIONS FOR ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANT BACTERIA

## WHAT IS AN ANTIBIOTIC-RESISTANT BACTERIA?

An antibiotic-resistant bacteria is a germ that is not killed by an antibiotic usually used to treat infections. If an infection results from such a bacteria, a stronger antibiotic must be used to treat it.

## WHY ARE ISOLATION PRECAUTIONS USED IN A HEALTH CARE FACILITY?

Isolation is used to prevent the spread of these antibiotic resistant bacteria (germ) to other patients in the hospital. This is especially important for those patients/clients already weak from being sick and therefore are more likely to develop an infection.

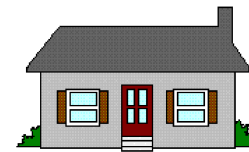
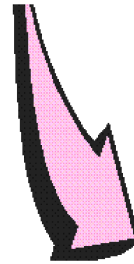
## WHAT TYPES OF PRECAUTIONS ARE USED IN A HEALTH CARE FACILITY?

Hospitals, long term care facilities, and home care providers have their own policies and procedures on how they are going to provide care for someone who has a bacteria that is resistant to antibiotics. Some of the precautions hospital personnel may follow include:

1. Requesting that you stay in your room.
2. Wearing gloves (and frequently gowns and masks) to prevent caregivers from spreading the bacteria to other patients.
3. Asking all persons entering and leaving your room to wash their hands.
4. Placing an isolation instruction sign on the door to your room to alert the staff. Some hospitals may put a cart with all necessary supplies outside your doorway.
5. Asking you to wash your hands and assist with any other precautions requested by the health care provider if you go to another part of the facility, such as, for an x-ray.

## WHAT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY AND VISITORS?

In most hospitals, there is no reason to restrict your visitors. Visitors should wash their hands before leaving the room. In general, visitors do not need to wear masks, gowns, or gloves while visiting someone in the hospital. Hospital personnel may instruct a visitor to wear gloves, gown, or a mask if the visitor will be doing direct care for the patient. You or your visitors should consult the hospital personnel if you have any questions. Family or friends who have symptoms of a cold or flu should not visit until their symptoms are gone.



## WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN YOU LEAVE THE HOSPITAL?

It is not likely that any special precautions will be needed when you are out of the hospital. Good hand washing is always important and should be done at home. You should discuss any special home instructions with your doctor before you go home.

## HOW IS HOME DIFFERENT?

The home setting generally eliminates the need for caregivers to care for several other patients. In health care facilities caregivers are taking care of several other patients. The concern is to prevent nurses, doctors, or other health care providers from spreading this antibiotic resistant bacteria to other patients. Caregivers in the home are generally not taking care of other persons who are ill. In a home setting, spreading the infection is prevented by washing hands after providing the care the ill person needs.

## WHAT CAN I DO TO PREVENT SPREAD OF ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANT BACTERIA?

1. Wash your hands.
2. Discuss any concerns you may have with your nurse or doctor. They can discuss your individual situation with you.
3. When receiving health care in the future, it is important that you tell health care providers that you have a history of an infection with an antibiotic-resistant bacteria. It will allow them to reevaluate your status or use precautions to ensure they do not carry the bacteria to other patients. TDH 12/97