

## **POINT OF CARE RISK ASSESSMENT (PCRA)**

**BEFORE** each patient/resident/client interaction, the health care worker (HCW) completes a 'Point of Care Risk Assessment' (**PCRA**) to determine the risk of exposure and appropriate Routine Practices and Additional Precautions required for safe care by asking the following questions:

- What are the patient's symptoms?
- What is the degree of contact?
- What is the degree of contamination?
- What is the patient's level of understanding and cooperation?
- What is the degree of difficulty of the procedure being performed and the experience level of the care provider?
- What is my risk of exposure to blood, body fluids, excretions, secretions, non-intact skin and mucous membranes?

The PCRA allows the HCW to determine what personal protective equipment (PPE) to select and wear for that interaction. PCRA should be performed even if the patient has been placed on Additional Precautions as more PPE may be required.

## \*\* DURING COVID 19, RATED MASKS ARE MANDATORY FOR ALL HCW PROVIDING DIRECT CARE\*\*

Will my hands be exposed to blood, excretions, secretions, tissues, non-intact skin or contaminated items in the environment?

Will my face be exposed to a splash, spray, cough or sneeze? Will I be within 2 metres of a coughing patient?

Will my skin or clothing be exposed to splashes or items contaminated with blood, body fluids excretions, secretions or nonintact skin?

Does the patient have a suspected or confirmed airborne illness (e.g. measles, tuberculosis chicken pox)?

Am I performing an aerosol-generating medical procedure (AGMP) on a patient with a suspected or confirmed novel or emerging respiratory pathogen? If YES, perform hand hygiene and wear gloves

If YES, wear facial protection (includes mask and protective eyewear)

If YES, wear a gown

If YES, wear a respirator (N95)

Adapted from NSHA/IWK by IPAC (CH) March 31, 2020, revised December 15 2020