Environmental cleaning

- Use detergent solution for routine cleaning of environmental surfaces.
- Routine disinfection is not required but may be needed in the presence of drug resistant organisms, as part of transmission based precautions or during an outbreak.

Reprocessing of reusable medical equipment and instruments

- Re-usable medical devices, instruments and patient-care equipment should be reprocessed according to their intended use and manufacturer’s advice.
- Do not reprocess items and equipment marketed as single use.

Respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette

- Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze, preferably with a tissue but if you don’t have a tissue handy, cough or sneeze into your elbow or upper arm.
- Perform hand hygiene after coughing, sneezing or using tissues.

Aseptic technique

- Use aseptic technique to prevent micro-organisms being introduced into a susceptible site by hands, equipment and the environment.

Waste management

- Segregate waste at the point of generation and contain it into the appropriate colour coded and labelled receptacle.

Linen management

- Handle used linen in a manner that will prevent microorganism dispersal.
- Wear PPE where appropriate when handling linen soiled with blood or body fluids.
The basics of infection prevention and control

Infection prevention and control involves implementing work practices that reduce the risk of transmission of infectious agents through a two-tiered approach:

- **Standard Precautions** - routinely applying basic infection prevention and control strategies to minimise infection risks to both patients and healthcare workers.

- **Transmission Based Precautions** – used in addition to standard precautions when managing patients suspected or known to be being infected with particular agents transmitted by the contact, droplet or airborne routes.

What are standard precautions?

Healthcare workers must use standard precautions:

- when caring for all patients, regardless of the patient’s perceived or actual infectious status.

- when handling blood and/or all other body substances, secretions and excretions (excluding sweat), non-intact skin or mucous membranes.

**Standard precautions includes the use of:**

- Hand hygiene
- Personal protective equipment
- Safe use and disposal of sharps
- Environmental cleaning
- Reprocessing of reusable equipment
- Respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette
- Aseptic technique
- Waste management.
- Linen management