Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) – AT A GLANCE

DESCRIPTION

- **Respiratory Syncytial virus (RSV) –** an enveloped RNA virus that causes coughs and colds during the winter period.
- Common cause of bronchiolitis in children aged under 2 years presenting to hospital
- Can affect elderly patients and immunocompromised patients of all ages
- Transmitted via large droplets and secretions
- Incubation period is 3 to 5 days
- Vaccines are now available for the elderly and for pregnant women (to prevent RSV in neonates and infants)

MANAGEMENT

Patient Category	Patient placement	IPC precautions
Children (Ages 0 – 16)	Isolate in a single room/cubicle or cohort similar RSV cases in a bay	Droplet precautions- • Routine care- Surgical mask (FRSM) • AGP's-FFP3 Respiratory and cough etiquette for patients
Adults in general areas	Preferable to isolate in a single room if symptomatic. Cohort similar RSV cases in a bay.	Droplet precautions- • Routine care- Surgical mask (FRSM) • AGP's-FFP3 Respiratory and cough etiquette for patients
Adults in immunocompromised areas	Isolate in a single room or cohort similar RSV cases in a bay	Droplet precautions • Routine care- Surgical mask (FRSM) • AGP's-FFP3 Respiratory and cough etiquette for patients

CLEANING

- Virus can survive on surfaces for up to7 hours.
- Wipe down frequently touched areas with GREEN Clinell wipes at least twice a day
- Clean all equipment after each use
- Terminal clean required (including curtain change) for patients in bed space/single room for 12 hours or more, including cleaning equipment and surfaces with GREEN Clinell wipes

WHEN TO STOP ISOLATION/ COHORTING

- Cohorting or isolation should continue until the patient is asymptomatic or has been discharged
- Patients can be discharged home while symptomatic provided they are medically fit
- Receiving hospitals must be informed, using an Inter-hospital transfer form found on the intranet, of confirmed or suspected RSV prior to transfer

For further information or advice please contact Infection Prevention and Control on Bleep 1747