Compromised Host/Neutropenic Precautions

Policy Owner: Epidemiology

POLICY STATEMENT
All patients with an absolute neutrophil count less than or equal to 1000 must be placed in neutropenic precautions.

AFFECTED STAKEHOLDERS
*Indicate all entities and persons within the Enterprise that are affected by this policy:*

☒ Administrative Services
☒ Hired Staff
☒ Housestaff/Residents & Clinical Fellows
☒ Leased staff
☒ Medical Staff (includes Physicians, PAs, APNs)
☒ Patient Care Services (Nursing, PCT’s, Unit Clerks)
☒ Professional Services (Laboratory, Radiology, Respiratory, Pharmacy; etc.)
☒ Vendors/Contractors
☐ Other: Include any other stakeholders not listed above.

DEFINITIONS

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<th>Term</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Absolute neutrophil count (ANC)</td>
<td>The real number of white blood cells that are neutrophils. The ANC is calculated by multiplying the total white blood cell count by the percentage of neutrophils found in the blood.</td>
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<td>Immunocompromised patient</td>
<td>Patients with an impaired immune system which makes them susceptible to infections.</td>
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<td>Neutrophil</td>
<td>A type of white blood cell (WBC) which is the most important in preventing infections.</td>
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<td>Transmission-based Precautions</td>
<td>Safety measures designed for patients with suspected or known infections with specific pathogens: designed to interrupt the mode of transmission. May be used singularly or in combination in addition to standard precautions.</td>
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Immunocompromised patients, depending upon the severity and duration of immunosuppression, vary in their susceptibility to an infection. These patients are at increased risk for infections. Special precautions may protect such patients from exogenous sources of infectious agents. Please note that when an absolute neutrophil count of 1000 is reached, the patient is said to be immunocompromised. Treatment, however, does not usually begin until an absolute neutrophil count is less than or equal to 500.

1. Compromised Host/Neutropenic Precautions are initiated electively based on the clinical judgment of the primary care physician and nurses. Once ordered, consistent implementation is required.

2. A written physician’s order is required to increase barrier requirements beyond routine asepsis and Standard Precautions.

3. Required supplies are obtained from unit stock or ordered from Central Distribution and charged to the patient. Use of a precautions carts is discouraged unless additional barrier supplies are ordered by the physician.

4. Neutropenic patients, who are infected by microorganisms requiring Transmission-Based Precautions, are placed on the appropriate category of Precautions. Note: Compromised Host/Neutropenic Precautions are not a category of Transmission-Based Precautions.

5. A private room is required.
   a. A room under positive pressure is preferred for a neutropenic patient (unless infected with organism transmitted by the airborne route). Additionally, a room away from a construction area is advisable.

6. A Compromised Host/Neutropenic Precautions sign is: (1) posted on the front cover of the patient’s medical record; (2) posted on the door of the patient’s room; and (3) posted over the patient’s bed. The Compromised Host/Neutropenic Precautions signs are stocked on each nursing unit. Additional signs can be obtained from Hospital Epidemiology.

7. Hand hygiene is required before patient contact, before handling invasive devices or invasive procedures, before donning gloves, immediately after removing gloves, upon leaving the room, and as needed.
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8. Visitor screening and counseling is performed by the nursing personnel.

9. A mask is worn by healthcare workers and visitors with symptoms of an upper respiratory infection. If the patient needs to leave the room, the patient wears a mask.

10. No live plants or flowers are allowed in the room.

11. Additional requirements ordered by the physician are written on the Compromised Host/Neutropenic Precautions signs. Such requirements often include limitation of visitors and dietary restrictions.

12. Upon a physician’s order, a portable HEPA filter can be placed in the patient’s room.

REFERENCES, SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, AND TOOLS
None.

RELATED POLICIES
None.

APPROVED BY
Chief Executive Officer, Georgia Regents Medical Center

Date: 05/26/2016