

Infection control policy for barbers

This policy applies to all barbers in Kuwait government hospitals.

Responsibilities:

1. Hospital administration:
 - Provide the necessary barber equipment/ supplies (electric clippers, disposable razors, disposable plastic shaving sets, cleaning brush for the instrument , and disposable towels)
2. Nursing Department:
 - Call the barber when needed and monitor his work.
 - Provide guidance to specific isolation precautions the patients may be put under.
 - Provide the required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), sharp boxes and hand hygiene agents.
3. Barber:
 - Follow the underlying infection control precautions.

General instructions:

- The barber may use the patient own shaving set/clipper if available (preferred).
- Barbers should maintain good personal hygiene (e.g., healthy hands, trimmed short nails, daily showers, use tissues for nose cleaning, wearing clean outer garments...etc.)
- Barbers must cover any skin cuts or abrasions with bandaids.
- Barbers should have two or more sets of tools to ensure that all instruments can be disinfected correctly after each use.
- Barbers are not allowed to shave the surgical site before operation.
- Barbers should not share anything between patients without cleaning, disinfection or disposal of single use. If it cannot be cleaned and disinfected they should not use.
- Barbers should keep any stored items away from contamination and in a clean dry condition.
- In case of sharp injury, report to the nurse in charge and follow the needle stick injury policy.

Procedure:

1. Ask the nurse in charge if the patient is under specific isolation precautions to prepare personal protective equipment (PPE) as appropriate before you start the procedure.
2. Wash hands using chlorohexidine antiseptic detergent (Hibiscrub/ Hydrex) before you touch any patient and whenever your hands are visibly soiled. If your hands are visibly clean use an alcohol based hand rub (Hibisol/ Hydrex).
3. Introduce yourself to the patient and explain what you are going to do. (Conscious patient)
4. Make sure that yellow box for sharps are available in the patient room to secure the proper sharp disposal at the end of the procedure.
5. Use disposable clean towel for the patient.
6. Use clean hands or a disposable applicator (wooden tongue depressor) to distribute the cream whenever needed. Brushes are not allowed.
7. Wash hands again and wear gloves. (For hair cut no needs to wear gloves unless indicated).
8. Use disposable plastic razors for beard shaving.
9. Use hygienic detachable head-type clippers, a quality comb and appropriate stainless-steel scissor for hair cutting.
10. Discard the disposable towel in the waste bag at the end of the procedure.

11. Dispose razors, razor blades, and any other sharps in the sharp/yellow box after use.
12. Wash or disinfect your hands by alcohol-based hand rub at the end of the procedure and after removal and disposal of PPE (gloves, gown, goggle or mask) before you leave the patient room.

Cleaning and disinfection to instruments:

- Brush and clean any object that is caked with dust, dirt or hair prior to disinfection.
- If cleaning requires heavy brushing, it is best to use gloves and even a mask and do this in the utility room away from other patients in case of shared general room or inside the patient room if in a private or isolation room.
- Immediately discard any instrument which causes skin abrasion or a cut to the skin. If bleeding occurs, use sterile cotton to absorb the blood. Dispose of blood contaminated materials immediately in a yellow plastic bag.
- All items must be cleaned and dried with a clean paper towel before they can be placed in a disinfectant solution
- All non-electrical or reusable instruments used for hair cutting /beard shavings must be washed thoroughly, cleaned and disinfected using a chlorine-releasing agent e.g., sodium hypochlorite (100 ppm available chlorine) for 10 minutes in a clean container. The solution must be prepared fresh daily.
- Clippers should be brushed to remove all foreign matter and then disinfected.

Detachable Head-Type (Preferred):

- Detach blades.
- Clean thoroughly.
- Immerse in effective sanitizer (chlorine -releasing agent) for required time (100 ppm for 10 minutes).

Non-Detachable Head-Type (Not preferred):

- After use, brush out excess hair and grease in a wide container then wipe the cutting blades with paper towel.
- Immerse blade in a chlorine -releasing agent (100 ppm available chlorine) for 10 minutes
- Apply the manufacturer lubricant oil then run the clipper for 10 seconds.
- Wipe the blades clean with a fresh disposable tissue and store dry.

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