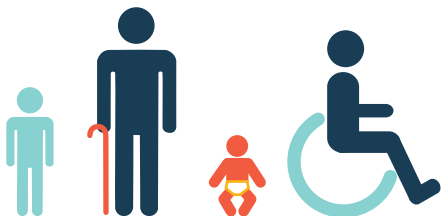


Infection Prevention and Control

Susceptible host

A person who is potentially vulnerable to an infection



Infectious agents

Pathogenic (disease-causing) microbes such as bacteria, parasites, viruses, or fungi



Understanding the chain of infection

Portal of entry

Site through which a pathogen can enter the susceptible host and cause infection, such as a urinary catheter or central line



Reservoirs

Hosts or habitats - such as humans, animals, or environment - where infectious agents live and reproduce



Mode of transportation

Method or route an organism transfers from a reservoir to a susceptible host. Can be directly by touch or aerosolized droplets, or indirectly by contact with contaminated surfaces or intermediate vectors.



Portal of exit

Route infectious agents leave the reservoir. Can be via nose or mouth, urinary tract, or in blood or other bodily fluids.



Ways emergency nurses can break the chain of infection:



- Advocate for immunizations
- Perform correct hand hygiene before and after patient contact
- Use proper personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Clean contaminated objects with appropriate disinfection and sterilization products
- Participate in antimicrobial stewardship
- Use appropriate isolation precautions
- Assess patient travel and potential exposure history
- Participate in nurse-driven removal of urinary catheters
- Properly dispose soiled materials in appropriate receptacles
- Educate patients on infection prevention

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