

# Patient safety: infection prevention

Infection prevention is a high priority at Wesley Medical Center. We follow the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and other regulatory agencies' requirements to make your hospital stay safe. Our staff is continuously updated on new infection prevention practices. We put these in place, evaluate our outcomes, and make any necessary adjustments to make Wesley Medical Center the safest medical environment. If you have questions or concerns, talk to your nurse or contact the Infection Prevention Department at 962-7570.

## Steps YOU can take to prevent infection

### Hand hygiene (soap and water or alcohol gel)

- Clean your hands before you eat, after coughing, sneezing or using the bathroom.
- Clean your hands if they become soiled or touch items that are dirty.
- If you do not see your healthcare workers clean their hands before they care for you, ask them to do so.

### Preventing pneumonia related to mechanical ventilation

If you are on a ventilator, we encourage your family to ask about the following infection prevention measures:

- Raising the head of the bed
- Mouth care and how often
- When will you be ready to start coming off of the ventilator

### Preventing surgical site infections

- Shower before your surgery, following instructions given to you by hospital staff or your doctor.
- Don't shave hair where the procedure will be done.
- Talk to your doctor if you have an infection, a history

of infection after operations or a history of MRSA (methicillin-resistant Staph aureus).

- Control your blood sugar if you have diabetes.
- Stop smoking — even quitting two weeks before your operation decreases your chance of infection.
- Do not let family or friends touch the surgical wound or dressing.

### Preventing bloodstream infections related to central lines

- Avoid getting your dressing wet.
- If dressing becomes loose or wet, report it to your nurse.
- Report redness or pain at the site.
- Avoid handling the central line site or its ports, unless instructed otherwise.
- Ask your doctor daily if you still need the central line.

### Preventing urinary tract infections related to Foley catheters

- Clean your hands before touching your catheter and before doing catheter care.
- Keep the collection bag below the level of the bladder.
- Do not tug, pull, twist or kink the tubing.
- Ask your doctor daily if you still need the catheter.

### Preventing "Superbugs" (MRSA, VRE, C difficile)

- Superbugs are bacteria that can be hard to treat.
- Screening tests may be done for some of these bacteria during your hospital stay.
- If you test positive, additional "precautions" will be used by workers during your care (gloves or gowns may be worn).
- Use good hand hygiene, reminding visitors and healthcare workers to do so as well.

# Patient safety: additional measures

It is the purpose and priority of the staff at Wesley Medical Center to make your hospital stay as pleasant as possible. Patient safety is a high priority at Wesley. To ensure your safety during the hospital stay, staff will educate you and visitors about any safety issues. This will ensure that you return to the maximum level of independence, functioning and previous quality of life. There are many aspects of patient safety that may be addressed according to each patient's individual needs. Listed below are a few of the safety issues that will be addressed with you during your stay at Wesley.

**Falls:** Nursing staff assess patients upon admission and then daily or upon a change in condition. They use a fall scale that rates the patient's gait, transferring ability, need for an ambulatory aid, mental status, recent fall his-

tory, and whether IV or other lines are present.

Interventions are based on the scale results and are individualized for the patient. Physicians may consider the need for assistive devices, a change in medications, orders for physical therapy or other orders that can help reduce the risk of falling.

**Plan of care:** It is our goal to include all patients and their family in the planning and provision of their care plan.

**Safe and effective use of medications:** Indications for medications, side effects, and dosing regimens all will be discussed with you to ensure that the your medications are used safely and effectively. Medications taken while you are in the hospital will be prescribed by your physician. Upon discharge, your physician will decide what

medications you should continue to take at home. Wesley Medical Center has implemented many safety practices in the facility to assure accurate, safe, and effective medication use for our patients.

Basic safety and health practices are addressed as necessary based on continuous assessments. These issues will be addressed to assure your safety and optimal care while you are a patient at Wesley, in addition to preparation for your discharge from the medical center.