



This document is intended to provide guidance on IPAC best practice recommendations when performing aerosol generating medical procedures (AGMPs) in shared patient care spaces (also referred as multi-bed room).

### Patient Placement:

1. Patients who screen positive (answer yes) to any questions on the screening form will be placed on [Droplet/Contact Plus\\*](#) precautions and placed in a private room.
2. Patients with planned or anticipated aerosol generating medical procedures (AGMPs) who do not meet **clearance criteria**<sup>1</sup> should not be placed in a shared space.
3. Patients with more than one transmissible disease or organism should not be placed in a multi-bed room.
4. If a private room is unavailable, refer to Appendix A: Patient Placement Priority for Private Rooms found in the [Interim IPAC Guidelines for Acute Care Health Care Settings](#).
5. Consult your local Infection Control Practitioner (ICP) for guidance on cohorting patients. The local ICP will refer to the document [IPAC Recommendations for Cohorting Patients on Additional Precautions in Acute Care](#) when providing such guidance.
6. Patients who have met clearance criteria can be placed in a shared space.

### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

1. Adhere to IPAC [Point of Care Risk Assessment](#), hand hygiene, appropriate use of PPE, and appropriate environmental cleaning guidelines.
2. Change PPE between each patient interaction and treat each bed space as a private room, refer to [Continuous and Extended PPE Use in Acute Care](#).
3. When caring for patients confirmed to have COVID-19 in designated units/cohorted spaces, refer to the [CV-19 G0038 PPE Guideline](#).

### General Recommendations for AGMPs in Shared Spaces:

#### Patients who meet clearance criteria:

1. AGMP may be performed in a shared space.
2. Staff are required to wear a medical mask and eye protection as per [Point of Care Risk Assessment \(PCRA\) Guidelines](#). An N95 respirator is not required. **(Exception: An N95 must be worn for ALL AGMPs in Emergency/Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Services (EMS), OR settings and Code Blue Management).**
3. No additional measures are required for other patients in the shared space.

#### Patients who do not meet clearance criteria:

1. All AGMPs should be performed in a private room with hard walls and door, with the door closed. If available, a negative pressure room or airborne infection isolation room (AIIR) may be used.  
Note: It is not mandatory for AGMPs to occur in airborne infection isolation rooms (AIIR).
2. In the event an AGMP must be performed in a shared space, consider:
  - Moving the patient requiring AGMP to a private room (most preferred).
  - If patient requiring AGMP cannot be moved, consider moving all other patients out of the shared space.

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#### <sup>1</sup>Clearance Criteria Includes:

- Patient/Resident has **screened negative** with the [inpatient, outpatient and continuing care screening tool](#)
- Patient/Resident has been tested for COVID-19 and has a **negative test result**
- Patient/Resident has **no new or worsening symptoms** as determined through daily symptom monitoring



3. If neither of the options above are feasible, the following measures are recommended when the AGMP is performed in a shared space:
- Separate patient beds by a minimum of 2 metres.
  - Create a barrier to define the patient bed space (e.g., privacy curtains or a portable privacy screen) and keep barrier drawn/in place at all times.
  - All non-essential staff and family member/support persons present should be moved out of the room until airborne precautions/aerosolize settle time signage has been removed. Refer to [Health Care Worker Exposure Risk Matrix Assessment Tool](#) for further direction.
  - Ensure the privacy curtains are drawn and all shared equipment, supplies and linens are removed from the immediate vicinity (i.e., curtained patient bed space) prior to performing the AGMP.
  - [Droplet/Contact Plus\\*](#) precautions **and** airborne precautions/aerosolize settle time signage should be placed at the entrance to the room as well as an easily visible location in the room (i.e., privacy curtain). Signage should remain in place until after the AGMP has been performed and air settle time has been achieved.
  - When an AGMP is performed in a shared space, airborne precautions/aerosolize settle time would apply to the entire room and not just the bed space (i.e., cleaning, N95 respirator use for all staff, etc.). Staff may leave the room after the AGMP is completed but movement in and out of the room should be for essential activities only.
  - Where possible, apply a medical mask to all patients in the multi-bed room for the duration of the AGMP and until settle time has been achieved. It is important to note that if only lab confirmed COVID-19 positive patients are within the multi-bed room, then medical masks are not required to be worn by the patients within the shared space.  
**Note:** If the application of a medical mask to the other patients in the room poses a safety risk (i.e., recovery areas), then staff should at minimum pull the privacy curtains closed and attempt to keep as much physical distance between the space where the AGMP is occurring and other patients.
  - Always consult with Infection Prevention and Control after such an event to determine whether further follow-up is required.

### References:

Alberta Health Services. Recommendations for cohorting inpatients on additional precautions in acute care facilities [Internet]. 2020 [cited 2020 July 15]. Available from: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/healthinfo/ipc/if-hp-ipc-cohorting-isolation-patients.pdf>

Manitoba Regional Health Authority. Provincial guidance for aerosol generating medical procedures (AGMPs) [Internet]. 2020 [cited 2020 July 15]. Available from: <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/aerosol-generating-medical-procedures-AGMPs.pdf>

British Columbia Provincial Health Services Authority – Cancer Agency. Nebulized therapy during the COVID-19 pandemic practice guide [Internet]. 2020 [cited 2020 July 10]. Available from: <http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/health-professionals-site/Documents/Nebulized%20Therapy%20during%20the%20COVID-19%20Pandemic%20Practice%20Guide.pdf>