Managing a Rash in Continuing Care

Individual with a new rash or change in existing rash

Look for a possible cause
- Has there been a change in medication or an environmental change such as, change in soap, detergent, etc.?

Assessment of rash
- Is it all over the body?
- Is it just located in a certain area?
- Is it affecting certain dermatomes?
- How many dermatomes?
- Is it a raised rash?
- Is there drainage?

What sort of symptoms
- Is the individual having other symptoms such as: fever, cough, pain, etc.? *(Remember an undiagnosed fever with a rash requires an individual to be placed on Airborne Precautions).*

Manage the individual

Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA)
- Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Gown, gloves, eye protection and mask, or N95 respirator, may be required

Limiting the spread
- Place on additional precautions
- Cover the rash with clothing/dressing
- Try to keep individual in their room as much as possible

Diagnosis and Treatment
- Consult with Physician as needed

Additional Resources

Refer to the Continuing Care Infection Prevention and Control Diseases and Conditions Table Isolation Pocket Reference for community, ambulatory and residential living sites Management of Patients Requiring Airborne Isolation (Algorithm for facilities without Airborne Isolation Rooms)

For more information, contact ipcSurvstdadmin@ahs.ca
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