Objective
To assist those making decisions on the use of non-traditional space for patient care to manage overcapacity (OP/OCP) during a pandemic.

Rationale
Many OC/OCP beds are within areas not originally designed for patient accommodation. Often they do not meet the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) recommendations for spacing to prevent transmission of respiratory pathogens (2 meters between patients). Also, OC/OCP beds may not have adequate accessibility to patient hand hygiene sinks and toileting facilities. The goal of this checklist is to select the best possible space to reduce the risk of transmission of communicable diseases and organisms between patients.

These guidelines are intended to apply to consideration of an unconventional space within a currently functioning patient care area. The wording 'access to' implies that the item is within a reasonable distance, if not available in the immediate OCP space.

Call IPC if consultation on space appropriateness is required or if significant modifications to the proposed space is anticipated.

Instructions
Review criteria for all spaces being considered for OC/OCP.

Criteria 1: Answer all questions. If the answer is "no" to any question, the space should not be used as OC/OCP. If space must be used refer to your site emergency preparedness plans.

Criteria 1: Any answers "No": the space must not be used as an overcapacity space.

- Staff, patients and visitors have access to hand hygiene stations including at least one hand hygiene sink.
- Patients have a spatial separation and a physical barrier between them sufficient to provide privacy, protection from the spread of infection, and adequate area to support the clinical and cleaning functions. This is minimum 2 meters (including with reconfiguration, additional physical barriers). (Algorithm for Use of Modular Wall Systems is available on Insite).
- Patients have access to toilets/commodes. (IPC recommends 1 toilet/commode per patient whenever possible).
- Waste disposal available, including sharps, human waste, general waste, biomedical and cytotoxic (if required) waste.
- Clear separation of clean and soiled supplies and linens.
- Defined area for Environmental Services and supplies.
- Plan for management of reusable soiled equipment and instruments.
- AHS-provided disinfectant products available.
- Surfaces are wipeable and easily cleaned, including floors, handrails, walls and countertops.

For more information contact ipcSurvstdAdmin@ahs.ca
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