What’s wrong:  
- The caregiver on the left is touching the doorpost of the isolation room while wearing an isolation gown and gloves. She is wearing a mask, which is not required for contact isolation.
- The caregiver on the right is reaching into the isolation room without wearing an isolation gown and gloves.

What’s right:  
- Do not touch any surface or item outside the patient’s room while wearing your isolation gown or gloves.
- Put on gloves before you hand an object to someone in a contact isolation room.
- Hands are the number one way that *Clostridium difficile* spores are spread.

*Clostridium difficile* is a spore-forming bacteria. These spores readily attach to clothes, hands, and equipment where they can survive for several months. People who have been on antibiotics are at greatest risk for developing a *Clostridium difficile* infection. Washing your hands with soap and water, cleaning equipment with bleach, and wearing isolation gowns and gloves will help to stop the spread of the infection-causing spores. Additional information is available at www.cdc.gov.
What’s wrong:

- **Clostridium difficile** is a spore-forming bacteria. These spores readily attach to clothes, hands, and equipment where they can survive for several months. People who have been on antibiotics are at greatest risk for developing a *Clostridium difficile* infection. Washing your hands with soap and water, cleaning equipment with bleach, and wearing isolation gowns and gloves will help to stop the spread of the infection-causing spores. Additional information is available at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

  **What’s right:**

  - Washing hands with soap and water is the best way to remove *Clostridium difficile* spores from your hands.
  - Wash your hands thoroughly before entering and before leaving the room of a patient in contact isolation.

  - Using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer does not remove the *Clostridium difficile* spores.
  - The isolation gown should be taken off before washing your hands when you are ready to leave the room.

Photomicrograph of spore-forming *C. difficile* bacteria.
What’s WRONG with this Picture?

What’s wrong:
• The transporter should not wear an isolation gown or gloves outside the patient’s room.
• Masks are not required for contact isolation.

What’s right:
• Wash your hands and wear a gown and gloves before assisting patients while in their rooms.
• Patients should wash their hands before leaving their rooms.
• Discard your gown and gloves and wash your hands as you are leaving the room with the patient.
• Wash your hands and put on a fresh isolation gown and gloves prior to assisting patients at their destination.

Clostridium difficile is a spore-forming bacteria. These spores readily attach to clothes, hands, and equipment where they can survive for several months. People who have been on antibiotics are at greatest risk for developing a Clostridium difficile infection. Washing your hands with soap and water, cleaning equipment with bleach, and wearing isolation gowns and gloves will help to stop the spread of the infection-causing spores. Additional information is available at www.cdc.gov.
What’s wrong:
• The person wearing an isolation gown and gloves should not step outside, lean on the doorpost, or touch any object outside of the isolation room.

What’s right:
• Do not touch any surface or item outside the patient’s room while wearing your isolation gown or gloves.
• Spores can stick on the doorframe or the phone and transfer to the next person who touches them.

Clostridium difficile is a spore-forming bacteria. These spores readily attach to clothes, hands, and equipment where they can survive for several months. People who have been on antibiotics are at greatest risk for developing a Clostridium difficile infection. Washing your hands with soap and water, cleaning equipment with bleach, and wearing isolation gowns and gloves will help to stop the spread of the infection-causing spores. Additional information is available at www.cdc.gov.
What’s correct:

- Before the patient leaves his room, other departments need to be notified to maintain contact precautions when the patient arrives.

- After the patient leaves the department, equipment should be cleaned with a sporicidal or non-diluted bleach cleaner.

**Clostridium difficile** is a spore-forming bacteria. These spores readily attach to clothes, hands, and equipment where they can survive for several months. People who have been on antibiotics are at greatest risk for developing a *Clostridium difficile* infection. Washing your hands with soap and water, cleaning equipment with bleach, and wearing isolation gowns and gloves will help to stop the spread of the infection-causing spores. Additional information is available at www.cdc.gov.
What’s **WRONG** with this Picture?

**What’s wrong:**
- Used isolation gowns should not be hanging out of the container when they are removed.

**What’s right:**
- Contact isolation means that anyone entering the room must put on a fresh isolation gown and gloves. Before leaving, they must deposit those items into an appropriate container.

Clostridium difficile is a spore-forming bacteria. These spores readily attach to clothes, hands, and equipment where they can survive for several months. People who have been on antibiotics are at greatest risk for developing a Clostridium difficile infection. Washing your hands with soap and water, cleaning equipment with bleach, and wearing isolation gowns and gloves will help to stop the spread of the infection-causing spores. Additional information is available at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).
What’s **WRONG** with this Picture?

**What’s wrong:**
- The caregiver is not wearing an isolation gown while in the room of a patient that requires contact isolation.

**What’s right:**
- A new isolation gown and gloves must be worn before entering a contact isolation room.
- Before leaving the room, the gown and gloves must be removed to avoid the spread of *Clostridium difficile* spores.

*Clostridium difficile* is a spore-forming bacteria. These spores readily attach to clothes, hands, and equipment where they can survive for several months. People who have been on antibiotics are at greatest risk for developing a *Clostridium difficile* infection. Washing your hands with soap and water, cleaning equipment with bleach, and wearing isolation gowns and gloves will help to stop the spread of the infection-causing spores. Additional information is available at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

Thank you to Western Medical Center Anaheim’s Infection Prevention department for collaborating with Health Services Advisory Group of California, Inc., to create the photos. This material, including “Contact Isolation” signage, is for instructional purposes only. No actual patients were photographed.

This material was prepared by Health Services Advisory Group of California, Inc., the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for California, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy. Publication No. CA-105047-73-081513-07
STOP the Spread of

Clostridium difficile

Clostridium difficile (C. difficile) is a spore-forming bacteria. These spores readily attach to clothes, hands, and equipment where they can survive for several months. People who have been on antibiotics are at greatest risk for developing a C. difficile infection. Washing your hands with soap and water, cleaning equipment with bleach, and wearing isolation gowns and gloves will help to stop the spread of the infection-causing spores.

Transmission

• C. difficile bacteria grow in the intestines and are expelled during fecal elimination.
• Spores can survive outside the body on inanimate surfaces for months, and they can be transmitted from frequently touched surfaces such as bed rails, IV poles, toilets, grab bars, light switches, and faucets. They can also adhere to and be transmitted from clothes, towels, curtains, and bed linens.
• Health care workers can spread the bacteria by touching contaminated surfaces and then touching other patients or items in their rooms.
• C. difficile infection occurs when spores are ingested orally.

Prevention

• Staff and visitors should always follow contact isolation precautions, including use of gloves and gowns.
• Before leaving the room, staff and visitors should remove gloves and gowns and wash their hands.
• Washing hands vigorously for 20 seconds with soap and water helps remove C. difficile spores.
• Alcohol-based hand sanitizers do not kill C. difficile.
• Housekeeping should use a health care facility-approved sporicidal to thoroughly clean the room (and bathroom), at least daily.
• Non-diluted bleach cleaners are an effective way to destroy spores.
• Practitioners should strictly adhere to antibiotic prescribing protocols and avoid inappropriate use of broad-spectrum antibiotics.

Additional information is available at www.cdc.gov.

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