

The Chain of Infection

Nursing

Six links from organism to host, and the nursing action that breaks each.

Break any single link and transmission stops.

Link	Break it by
Infectious agent	Antimicrobial stewardship, cleaning, sterilisation
Reservoir	Source control, waste and linen handling
Portal of exit	Respiratory etiquette, covering wounds
Mode of transmission	Hand hygiene, PPE, isolation, safe devices
Portal of entry	Aseptic technique, catheter and line care
Susceptible host	Immunisation, nutrition, glycaemic control

Educational reference. Hand hygiene breaks the mode-of-transmission link and remains the single highest-yield action available.