

Standard Precautions

Nursing

The measures used for every patient, whatever the diagnosis.

Standard — every patient

- Hand hygiene at the five moments
- PPE chosen by the task, not the diagnosis
- Safe sharps handling and disposal
- Respiratory etiquette and cough hygiene
- Environment and equipment decontamination
- Safe handling of linen and waste

Transmission-based — added

- Contact: gloves and gown, dedicated equipment
- Droplet: fluid-resistant mask within range
- Airborne: respirator, negative-pressure room
- Applied on suspicion, not on confirmation
- Signage and single-room or cohort placement
- Stepped down only on a documented decision

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Standard precautions assume every patient may be infectious, because at the point of care you do not yet know.

Educational reference. Precaution categories, PPE specifications and stepping-down rules are set by local policy, not by preference.