

10A NCAC 13D .2209 INFECTION CONTROL

- (a) The facility shall establish and maintain an infection control program for the purpose of providing a safe, clean and comfortable environment and preventing the transmission of diseases and infection.
- (b) Under the infection control program, the facility shall decide what procedures, such as isolation techniques, are needed for individual patients, investigate episodes of infection and attempt to control and prevent infections in the facility.
- (c) The facility shall maintain records of infections and of the corrective actions taken.
- (d) The facility shall ensure communicable disease screening, including tuberculosis, prior to admission of all patients being admitted from settings other than hospitals, nursing facilities or combination facilities; prior to or upon admission for all patients admitted from hospitals, nursing facilities and combination facilities; and within seven days upon the hiring of all staff. The facility shall ensure tuberculosis screening annually thereafter for patients and staff as required by 10A NCAC 41A, "Communicable Disease Control" which is incorporated by reference, including subsequent amendments. Copies of these Rules may be obtained at no charge by contacting the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, Tuberculosis Control Branch, 1902 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1902. Identification of a communicable disease does not, in all cases, in and of itself, preclude admission to the facility.
- (e) All cases of reportable disease as defined by 10A NCAC 41A "Communicable Disease Control" and epidemic outbreaks, and poisonings shall be reported immediately to the local health department.
- (f) The facility shall isolate any patient deemed appropriate by the infection control program.
- (g) The facility shall prohibit any employee with a communicable disease or infected skin lesion from direct contact with patients or their food, if direct contact is the mode of transmission of the disease.
- (h) The facility shall require all staff to use good hand washing technique as indicated in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention "Guidelines for Hand Washing in Hospital Environmental Control," as published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service which is incorporated by reference, including subsequent amendments. Copies may be purchased from the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia, 22161 for fifteen dollars and 95 cents (\$15.95).
- (i) All linen shall be handled, store, processed and transported so as to prevent the spread of infection.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 131E-104;
Eff. January 1, 1996.*