SOP: Patient Screening and Isolation Procedures

This SOP details the **patient screening and isolation procedures**, focusing on standardized methods for identifying infectious diseases, assessing patient risk factors, implementing timely isolation practices, and minimizing the spread of pathogens within healthcare settings. It includes steps for initial patient evaluation, criteria for isolation room assignment, personal protective equipment usage, monitoring and documentation protocols, and communication guidelines to ensure patient and staff safety while maintaining quality care.

1. Purpose

To establish standardized procedures for patient screening and isolation to prevent transmission of infectious diseases within the healthcare facility.

2. Scope

This SOP applies to all healthcare staff involved in patient care, including admissions, clinical, and support personnel.

3. Responsibilities

- **Clinical staff:** Conduct patient screening, implement isolation, and follow PPE protocols.
- **Infection control personnel:** Oversee procedures and provide ongoing staff training.
- **Support staff:** Maintain cleanliness of isolation areas and assist as directed.

4. Procedure

1. **Initial Patient Evaluation**
   - Review admission documentation for risk factors (recent travel, symptoms, exposure history).
   - Assess vital signs and conduct a focused physical examination.
   - Utilize screening tools and checklists for infectious diseases.
2. **Screening Criteria for Infectious Diseases**
   - Fever >38°C, cough, respiratory distress, rash, or gastrointestinal symptoms.
   - Epidemiological history (travel, contact with known cases, cluster of illness).
   - Any other criteria as per current infection control guidelines.
3. **Implementation of Isolation**
   - Immediately place suspected infectious patients in a designated isolation room.
   - Assign room type per disease transmission (airborne, droplet, contact).

Transmission Type	Isolation Room	PPE Required
Airborne	Negative-pressure room	N95 respirator, gloves, gown, eye protection
Droplet	Single room	Surgical mask, gloves, gown, eye protection
Contact	Single room or cohorting	Gloves, gown

4. **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Usage**
   - Follow standard and transmission-based precautions at all times.
   - Don appropriate PPE before patient contact and doff in designated area.
5. **Monitoring and Documentation**
   - Monitor patient for clinical status changes at least every 4 hours.
   - Document assessment findings, interventions, and isolation status in the medical record.
6. **Communication Protocols**
   - Immediately notify infection control and attending physician of suspected/confirmed cases.
   - Inform patient and family about isolation procedures and rationale.

5. References

- WHO: Infection prevention and control during health care when COVID-19 is suspected
- CDC: Guidelines for Isolation Precautions
- Local Infection Control Policies

6. Revision History

Date	Version	Description	Author
2024-06-30	1.0	Initial SOP release	Infection Control Team