**[Bug Bingo: Enhanced Barrier Precautions](https://mfbc.us/m/tr6rppa)**

**What are Enhanced Barrier Precautions (EBPs)?**

Enhanced barrier precautions, also known as **EBPs,** are special precautions developed especially for nursing homes and only used in nursing homes to prevent the spread of certain **germs** called multidrug-resistant organisms **(MDROs)**.

**What are MDROs?**

As the name suggests, MDROs are germs that are **resistant** to multiple **antibiotics**. These infections have limited drug options, making them difficult to **treat**, which can impact a resident’s overall **health**. Because of age, health conditions, and treatments, nursing home residents are at higher **risk** of getting an MDRO.

Up to 50% of nursing home residents can have an MDRO on their skin and body, and most of the time, these infections go undetected. Residents with an MDRO can be hard to **detect** because they may not feel or look sick but can still **spread** the germ to other residents through staff, as they provide care requiring prolonged contact with several residents throughout the day.

While MDROs are concerning, EBPs are an effective way to **prevent** germ spread and keep residents, staff, and visitors **safe**.

**When Should EBPs be used?**

First, EBPs should be used if it is determined that you have a specific MDRO. Your doctor and **nurse** will obtain this information and let you know if this is the case.

Secondly, EBPs should be used if you have an **indwelling** device, such as a urinary **catheter**, or if you have a **chronic** **wound**, as these can allow MDROs to enter the body.

**How are EBPs Used for Resident Care?**

EBPs require staff to wear **gowns** and **gloves** only during certain care activities that require close, **prolonged contact** between residents and staff. For example, if a staff member is helping a resident on EBPs **dress**, **bathe**, or perform **wound care**. Staff must also **clean** their **hands** with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub (**ABHR**) before and after using EBPs.

**How Can You Help Promote EBPs and Prevent Germ Spread?**

An EBP **sign** should be placed by the resident’s room to remind staff of which residents are on EBPs and what to do when a resident is on EBPs. If think you should be on EBPs and do not see a sign, let the staff know.

The infection preventionist, also known as the **IP**, checks to ensure enough supplies are available for staff to appropriately use EBPs. This includes gowns, gloves, and **supplies** for everyone to clean their hands. If you notice supplies are not available in your room or staff **forget** to clean their hands before providing care, please gently **remind** them you are on EBPs.

Everyone in the nursing home, staff, residents, and visitors, should receive **education** about EBPs, including why, how, and when they are used. Let those closest to you know what you learned today, and always ask **questions**!

Lastly, the easiest way to effectively prevent germ spread is to have clean hands! Residents should clean their hands after using the **restroom**, before **eating**, and after **sneezing** or **coughing**. Visitors should clean their hands before and after **direct contact** with a resident, before **entering** a resident’s room, and when **leaving** a resident’s room. Hands can be cleaned using soap and water or by using alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR).

**What Do EBPs Have to Do with Residents’ Rights?**

Residents have the right to make informed **choices** regarding their care. They should be educated about the use of indwelling **devices** such as catheters and dialysis lines and encouraged to ask about their appropriate use.

Residents on EBPs have the right to **participate** in the same **activities** and receive the same level of care.

Residents and families have the right to be **involved** in their care by receiving education on EBPs, why they are used, and the importance of using them.

Residents and their families also have the right to be **informed** of any medical **conditions** or **infections** that might require using EBPs. They should be encouraged to ask such questions for a better understanding of related care.

While residents have the right to be informed of their care, other residents' medical information should be kept **private**. EBP signs communicate measures being taken to prevent the spread of MDRO while maintaining the **confidentiality** of residents’ health.

Residents have a right to voice **concerns** and receive a **timely** response without fearing discrimination or retaliation.

EBPs are extremely important to have in place in nursing homes and will be used to keep you, your families, and the staff safe. If you are concerned about EBPs, please ask; education is key to maintaining good **quality** infection prevention and **control**! 😊

We want to thank you all for attending EBP bingo! We hope you had fun and learned something new, if you have any questions, feel free to ask.

We would also like to ask you some questions to help us improve the ICARE program for residents like yourself. That said, if you feel uncomfortable answering the questions or being hand-recorded, please feel free leave whenever you want or listen to the conversation rather than answer.

* First, we wanted to get your feedback on the importance of resident rights. What rights do you feel are more important to you as a resident?
* Regarding the enhanced barrier precautions, which we just learned about, what is most important to you to help protect and preserve your rights?
* How did you like the bingo game? Are there any changes you would make? If so, what would you like to see at the next bingo match?