

The Case of Enhanced Barrier Precautions and the Laundry Bag

Improving Skin Care and MDRO Prevention in Long-Term Care



The Case

The certified nursing assistant (CNA) needs to enter a resident's room and change the sheets, collect dirty linens, and place them into a laundry bag.



The Challenge

An enhanced barrier precautions (EBP) sign is visible on the door. The CNA needs to decide whether personal protective equipment (PPE) is required to re-enter the resident's room and collect the dirty laundry into a laundry bag.

The Error

The CNA decides that EBP are not necessary because she's not touching the resident directly. She fails to read the sign that instructs staff members to wear PPE when handling resident linens.

Knowledge Check Questions

1. What should the CNA have done differently?

- A. Don a gown and gloves every time she walks in any room regardless of the task.
- B. Taken the time to read the sign carefully to determine whether EBP are needed.
- C. Skip changing bed linens to avoid having to don PPE.

2. What can be done to prevent this error from occurring again?

- A. Ensure that staff are aware of what high-contact activities require the use of PPE in EBP.
- B. Remove signs on the doors of resident rooms because they look messy.
- C. Put all residents on contact precautions because enhanced barrier precautions are too confusing.

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Answers to the Knowledge Check: 1-B; 2-A

