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GUIDELINES FOR CARING FOR ELDERLY AND AT-RISK PATIENTS IN
HOSPITALS (RESOURCES)

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Guidelines for care for elderly and high-risk patients in hospitals

Intensive care admissions guidelines for hospitals

Intensive Care NSW lists ICU admission procedures on its website:

<https://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/icnsw/patients-and-families/treatment-and-monitoring/admission-procedures>

Transporting / transferring patients and residents

The NHMRC Prevention and control of infection in residential and community aged care guidelines include a section on transporting residents or clients in residential and community aged care. This is not a comprehensive procedural guide, but includes the following:

If a resident is being transferred within or between facilities or a client is being transported, care must be taken to reduce the risk of spreading infection.

- *Golden rules—transporting residents or clients*
- *Perform hand hygiene before and after transfer/transport.*
- *If the person has a respiratory illness, encourage them to wear a mask and to perform respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette.*
- *Contain and cover any infected areas of the person's body.*

The College of Intensive Care Medicine of Australia and New Zealand has a guideline for Minimum Standards for Transport of Critically Ill Patients

The guidelines are intended for medical practitioners and apply to all stages of critical patient transport be that prehospital, interhospital or intrahospital. Nothing specific to elderly patients.

https://www.cicm.org.au/CICM_Media/CICMSite/CICM-Website/Resources/Professional%20Documents/IC-10-Guidelines-for-Transport-of-Critically-Ill-Patients_1.pdf

The Communicable Diseases Network of Australia Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Influenza Outbreaks in Residential Care Facilities in Australia provides guidelines on transferring aged care residents to hospital:

If transfer to hospital is required, notify the ambulance service and receiving hospital of the outbreak and the suspected or confirmed diagnosis. A template for resident transfer advice is available at Appendix 4 (p.21).

file://mhsdata.anu.edu.au/mhs/workgroups/rsph/nceph/Projects/EPP/Project%2024_HHRI/2_Research%20Projects/2_Current%20Projects/4_Coronavirus/Aged%20Care/RCF_Guidelines.pdf

Also useful information and signage for visitor restriction on p.21.

Other Resources to assist with infection control in an aged care setting:

- STOP – outbreak sign for front entrance (flu)
- STOP – PPE sign for ill resident's door
- Order of fitting and removing PPE

<https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/population-health/disease-surveillance/influenza-illness-outbreaks>