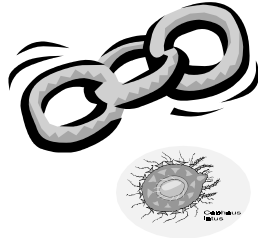


## CHAIN OF INFECTION



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## Infection control practices...

- Prevent the spread of infection
- Promote the health & safety of:
  - patients
  - co-workers
  - yourself
  - your significant others



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## Infections may be...

- Acute
  - short term
  - relatively severe course
- Chronic
  - long-term
  - may last a lifetime (HBV, HIV)
  - may require treatment for acute infections



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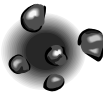
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## Infectious agents are..

- **Pathogens - disease causing organisms:**
  - bacteria, fungi, viruses, & protozoa
- **Pathogenicity:**
  - ability of microorganism to enter, survive in, & produce disease
- **Virulence:**
  - how harmful the disease will be
  - severity of the infectious agent
  - **colonization: microorganisms invade host & grow**



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## Reservoirs...

- Anyplace an infectious agent can survive, grow, or multiply
- plants, animals, soil, water, medical equipment
- the human body is the most common reservoir
- carrier - person who carries & can spread disease



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## Portals of exit...

- Path by which infectious agent leaves the reservoir:
- body fluids
- mouth & nose
- cough
- break chain of infection by covering mouth & nose with tissue
- **WASH HANDS**



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## Modes of transmission...

- **Four methods of transmission:**

- **contact:**

- direct (person to person)
- indirect (object or surface)
- droplet

- **airborne: longer distance over a greater time**



- **ingestion of contaminated food or water**



- **vector transmission: living creature, insects**



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## Portals of entry...

- **Path infectious agent enters host**

- **Any opening in the body can be a portal or entry:**

- respiratory tract
- ears, eyes
- gastrointestinal tract
- genitourinary tract
- broken skin



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## Hosts...

- **Barriers to infection compromised**

- **Immunocompromised**

- **Level of susceptibility depends upon:**

- age: infants & elderly at greatest risk
- nutritional status
- stress
- environment
- pre-existing conditions



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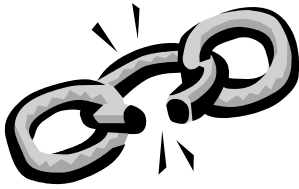
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**Break the chain of infection!**



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