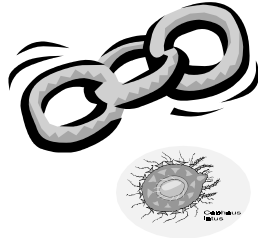


CHAIN OF INFECTION



Infection control practices...

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



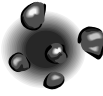
Infections may be...

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



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



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



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**



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**



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



Hosts...

- **Barriers to infection compromised**

- **Immunocompromised**

- **Level of susceptibility depends upon:**

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



Break the chain of infection!