



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
*Aging and Long-Term Support Administration*  
*PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600*

April 10, 2024

AL TSA: NH #2024-019  
CMS RELEASED QSO-24-08-NH, ENHANCED  
BARRIER PRECAUTIONS IN NURSING HOMES

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

On March 20, 2024, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued [QSO-24-08-NH](#), regarding the implementation of enhanced barrier precautions (EBPs) in nursing homes to prevent the spread of Multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs).

EBP are an infection control intervention that is focused on minimizing the transmission of MDROs through the implementation of targeted gown and glove use during high contact resident care activities. While EBP were introduced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 2019, they were not included in the guidance for State Survey Agencies.

**Effective April 1, 2024**, this new guidance is being incorporated in F880 Infection Prevention and Control ([42 CFR 483.80](#)) aligning the use of EBP with the existing nationally accepted standards.

**Nursing homes will follow the guidance outlined in [QSO-24-08-NH](#) and when indicated:**

- Use EBP in conjunction with standard precautions and expand the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) to donning of gown and gloves during high contact resident care activities that provide opportunities for transfer of MDROs to staff hands and clothing. EBP are indicated for residents with any of the following:
  - Infection or colonization with a CDC-targeted MDRO when Contact Precautions do not otherwise apply; **or**
  - Wounds and/or indwelling medical devices even if the resident is not known to be infected or colonized with a MDRO.

**During surveys and complaint investigations, Residential Care Services staff will:**

- Determine that facilities meet EBP regulatory requirements related to:
  - Accepted national standards;
  - Infection prevention and control; and
  - Reporting.
- Cite facilities at [F880](#) if failed practice related to EBP is identified.

If you have any questions, please contact Tiffany Meyers, Nursing Home Policy Program Manager, at (360) 464-0373 or [tiffany.meyers@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:tiffany.meyers@dshs.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Amy Abbott, Director  
Residential Care Services

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