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gown would be worn in the room over the nurse's clothing."

A patient with a staph infection that has a lot of drainage would likely be placed in a private room, Brooks added. The wound would be properly dressed by a pro wearing a gown and gloves.

Medical staff, such as nurses and technicians, generally don't mix their patient census; that is, a nurse assigned to a patient with a staph infection, for example, probably wouldn't be assigned to a post-op patient during his or her shift.

"Often, depending on what kind of an infection it is, a nurse would not work with a patient who has recently had surgery," Brooks said. "No matter what, you try not to go between patients and spread infection."

Community-borne diseases

Which infectious diseases show up in an emergency room, doctor's office or hospital setting tend to depend upon one's geographic area as well as the method of contagion - air, blood, touch or other body fluids.

"In downtown areas of large cities, tuberculosis is of concern because it's airborne," said Petersen, adding that TB (M. tuberculosis) is a bacteria.

"Diseases that are blood-borne, like hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV, which causes AIDS, are viruses."

Isolation procedures are followed once a contagious patient becomes known to medical authorities. "If someone is felt to have an infection that's contagious, they're isolated," Brooks said. "[Medical] folks need to protect themselves before going into a room."

When a high-risk patient is heading for surgery, infection may be controlled by administering prophylactic antibiotics, Brooks said. "Their skin is

scrubbed with a special soap that decreases the amount of bacteria on the skin, so that when the skin is cut, the risk of infection is decreased," Brooks said.

Specific rooms are set aside for patients carrying air-borne diseases, such as TB, equipped with a unique air cleaning duct system that funnels the air outside and not back into the hospital room or floor.

Bio-terrorism

Since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 and ensuing anthrax incidents, hospitals such as the U-M Health System, have either re-developed or refined bio-terrorism procedures.

"We found that our [original] plan, while a good one, really didn't cover all the information that we needed," Petersen said.

"We added more information to our Web site and developed patient and health care guides for each of the organisms or bio-terrorism germs that we might be concerned with. If we did have an incident, we could go right to our emergency room or to the patients and hand out these guides."

Providence Hospital also had an established plan, but needed to re-train staff members about who to contact during such an emergency.

"Awareness had to be raised," Brooks said. "At that point the goal was to make sure people knew where to find what they needed to know. They needed to know who to call."

Advice to caregivers

Often, family members become caregivers to those recovering from infection or disease at home.

"Wash your hands," Brooks said. "Be careful with wounds. Follow the physician's directions. Look for signs of infection."

MAY

THYROID

The Michigan Thyroid Support Group will meet 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 13, at the Plymouth Library 223 S. Main, Plymouth. Dr. derold Weinberg of The Birmingham Menopause Institute (www.birmingham-menopause.com) will be the guest speaker. Call Tracy Green at 734-453-7945 or e-mail mithyroid@comcast.net or visit <http://mihometown.com/ce/thyroid>

GRIEF SUPPORT

Angela Hospice in Livonia offers ongoing grief support every second and fourth Tuesday of the month. Support group meets 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 14 and May 28. Call Ruth Favor, bereavement coordinator, at (734) 464-7810.

HEPATITIS

St. Colette Parish Health Ministry presents a discussion on Hepatitis C with Paula Robins, an epidemiology practitioner at Harper Hospital, 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 15, at the church, 17600 Newburgh Road north of Six Mile across from Laurel Park Mall, Livonia. Call Joanne at (734) 464-4436.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Michigan Dyslexia Institute - Detroit Metro Center will sponsor an "Advocacy Training Workshop" on the Special Education Law and the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, May 15. The center is located at 30230 Orchard Lake Road, Suite 130, Farmington Hills. Call (248) 737-0044.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

Elizabeth Plourde, clinical laboratory specialist and author of *Hysterectomy & Ovary Removal: What All Women Need to Know*, will discuss "Maintaining Your Health and Your Sexuality" 7-9 p.m. Thursday, May 16, at the Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Road, Wayne. Reservations appreciated. Call (734) 721-7832.

BABY FAIR

Come visit the Beaumont Baby Fair noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 18, at Beaumont Hospital, Administration Building, 3601

W. Thirteen Mile Road (west of Woodward Ave.), Royal Oak. Mini classes on breastfeeding and post-partum adjustment. Lots of displays, information and prizes. First 300 participants will be eligible for free gifts. Call (248) 551-3887.

HEALTH AND SAFETY AWARENESS DAY

Something for all ages including blood and cholesterol screening, (\$8) cardiac vascular risk assessment, vision screening, information about diabetes, lupus, cancer and poison control, demonstrations by the Canton fire department, Canton police canine unit, visit by Smokey the Bear, Ident-a-kid identification cards, (free) water and boat safety, refreshments, door prizes. Program runs from 1-6 p.m., Saturday, May 18, at Main Street Baptist Church, 8500 North Morton Taylor, between Joy and Warren roads, behind

the Farmer Jack store, in Canton. Call (734) 453-4785 for more information.

DEPRESSION

The University of Michigan Depression Center offers a "Family Education Workshop" 6-8 p.m. Monday, May 20, at the East Ann Arbor Health Center. Learn about depression's risk factors and treatments. Open discussion will be facilitated at the end of the session. \$25 per person; \$30 per family. Preregister by calling (734) 764-0267 or visiting www.med.umich.edu/depression. Workshop also offered June 24.

CANCER/SEXUALITY

Beaumont Hospital's Sharing & Caring program offers "Cancer Treatment and Sexuality Issues" 7-9 p.m. Thursday, May 30, in the hospital's 1st Floor Conference Room, Beaumont Cancer Center, 3577 W. 13 Mile Road,

Royal Oak. Call (248) 551-8585.

JUNE

LONG-TERM CARE

Beaumont Hospital's Older Adult Services will offer "Be Smart About Dementia" 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 4, at the Evergreen Health & Living Center, 19933 W. Thirteen Mile Road, Southfield. Call (800) 633-7377 for more information. Beaumont Hospital will offer "Considering Long-Term Care Options," 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 5, in the hospital's Administration Building, first floor Auditorium, 3601 W. Thirteen Mile, Royal Oak. The class, taught by an attorney, will address housing, tax guidelines, Medicare, Medicaid and other related legal issues. Call (800) 633-7377.

Meet Mr. HOCKEY®

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Wednesday, May 15
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.



The first 225 people in line will receive a FREE autographed copy of the CD "Mr. and Mrs. Hockey's" Greatest Hits."

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WE OFFER HOPE

The U-M Depression Center Family Education Workshop offers patients and families an opportunity to learn about depression and gather information about risk factors, treatments, impact on families, and healthful ways of interacting with each other. Caregivers and social workers from the U-M Depression Center will highlight the most important facts about depression and its effect on different ages. Multi-generational education materials will be provided and open discussions will be facilitated at the end of the session.

March 18, May 20, or June 24, 2002

6 - 8 pm

East Ann Arbor Health Center

Lower Level Conference Room

Cost: \$25 per person \$30 per family

Preregister by calling 734-764-0267 or visit our web site at www.med.umich.edu/depression. Space is limited, call now.

Depression Center

University of Michigan Health System®



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