



# PATIENT SAFETY TOOL BOX TALKS ©

SAFE CARE & SUPPORT



## SERVICE USER PLACEMENT



v1.1

### Service user Placement & Transfer

- When deciding where to place a service user consider the potential for spread of infection
- In community settings consider the effect of isolation on a service user compared to the risk of infection, it may not always be prudent to isolate in long term care settings
- Potential risk of infection spreading - could be suspected or confirmed respiratory or gastrointestinal infection, uncontained excretions or wound drainage, undiagnosed rash etc...

### Consider!!!

- Is the service user likely to contaminate the environment or are they unable to maintain appropriate hygiene?
- How is the micro organism spread (droplet, airborne, contact)?
- Availability of single rooms / en-suite rooms?
- Options for room sharing, e.g. co-horting



Occasionally it is necessary to transfer a service user to another unit or healthcare facility. Every facility should have a written guideline with regard to how service users are transferred, and the responsibilities of staff when transferring service users.

### Ask yourself - Does the service user know they have an infection???

If you are transferring a service user with a known or suspected infection **always**:

- ✓ Notify the accepting unit or facility of the service user's infection status. Depending on the unit the person to notify could be the infection control nurse/Assistant Director of Nursing / CNM2 on unit etc... (telephone and written transfer letter)
- ✓ Notify the ambulance service if extra precautions are needed.
- ✓ If service user is being discharged home inform the Public Health Nurse and GP
- ✓ Maintain service users dignity and privacy at all times



### When a service user is being transferred from another area to your unit:

- Perform a risk assessment
- Consider the need for screening, if it is not necessary do not screen
- Consider the place you are putting the new service user, will they be beside a vulnerable service user, e.g. in the case of a service user with MRSA are you putting them in a room with service users who have wounds/ urinary catheters etc.
- If you are unsure how to manage the infection contact your infection control team / Department of Public Health for advice.

**A service user should not be discriminated against because she/he has an infection!!!!**