

Aerosol Generating Procedures

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v3.1

Definition

Aerosol-generating procedures are procedures that stimulate coughing and promote the generation of aerosols.⁽¹⁾

WHO has advised that the following aerosol generating procedures have been associated with a documented **increased risk** of pathogen transmission.²

- Intubation and related procedures, e.g. manual ventilation
- Respiratory and airway suctioning (including tracheostomy care)
- Nasopharyngeal aspiration
- Cardiopulmonary resuscitation
- Bronchoscopy
- Autopsy procedures

Other Aerosol generating procedures with a **possible increased risk** of pathogen transmission are:

- Nebulisation
- Non-invasive positive pressure ventilation
- Bi-level positive airway pressure (BPAP)
- High frequency oscillating ventilation

In dental practice, aerosol generating procedures include the use of hand pieces in the patient's mouth, use of airway suction equipment, and scaling.

Infection Prevention and Control

1. Adhere to Standard, Droplet and Contact precautions
2. Place patient in a single room
3. To avoid unnecessary exposures, only those healthcare workers or caregivers needed to perform the procedure should be present in the room at the time the aerosol generating procedure is being carried out.

4. In the healthcare setting the following PPE should be worn by all staff during an aerosol generating procedure and by those remaining in or entering the patients' room within one hour of cessation of the procedure:
 - a. Long sleeved gowns
 - b. FFP2 or FFP3 respirator masks
 - c. Eye protection (e.g. goggles)
 - d. Gloves (sterile gloves for some procedures)

Refer to [donning and removal of PPE document](#)

5. Community setting:
Carergivers should avoid being in the same room when a nebuliser treatment is ongoing. If entering the room is unavoidable, a surgical mask should be worn.

1. CDC-Infection Control in Healthcare, Home and Community Settings, 2002.

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/guidance/i/pdf/healthcare.pdf>

2. WHO-Infection prevention and control of epidemic- and pandemic-prone acute respiratory disease in health care

http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/WHO_CD_EPR_2007_6/en/