

# COHORTING MDRO-POSITIVE PATIENTS IN THE ABSENCE OF PRIVATE ROOMS

- As space allows and depending upon the number of admitted patients with targeted or novel multidrug resistant organisms (MDROs), consider cohorting positive patients in a designated room, area, wing, or unit to reduce traffic of healthcare personnel and equipment from positive to negative patients and lower risks of exposures.
- Patients colonized and/or infected with MDRO(s) should be cohorted with other patients who are colonized or infected with the same MDRO(s) to reduce risk of transmission to negative patients.
  - Patients may be colonized with different combinations of MDROs and room assignments by specific MDROs may not be feasible. Therefore, patients who require similar Transmission-Based Precautions can be cohorted based on a single pathogen without regard to co-colonizing organisms.
- If cohorting a positive patient with another patient that *does not* have an MDRO, avoid placing MDRO-positive patients in the same room as patients with indwelling or invasive devices (e.g., tracheostomy tubes, mechanical ventilators, central lines, central venous catheters), open wounds, immunocompromising conditions, or other serious medical conditions.
  - Alternatively, place positive patients with otherwise healthy patients with few or no risk factors for colonization (e.g., tracheostomy tubes, mechanical ventilators, central lines, central venous catheters, open wounds).
- Additional precautionary practices should be implemented and maintained to reduce transmission in shared rooms:
  - Ensure healthcare personnel change PPE and perform hand hygiene when transitioning between roommates and patient care environments.
  - Maintain a physical distance of at least three feet between roommates and their environment of care.
  - Utilize barriers, preferably disposable curtains, to limit direct contact between roommates.
  - Increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfection of environmental surfaces and shared, reusable equipment with an EPA-registered cleaning product that is effective against the given organism (i.e., List P for *C. auris*, List K for *C. difficile*).

