REUSE OR EXTENDED USE OF GOWNS

**REUSE:**
removal and storage of gown between patients

**EXTENDED USE:**
use of the same gown for repeated close contact with multiple patients without removal between patients (acceptable when patients have the same respiratory pathogen)

Considerations for extended use of gowns to reduce contact transmission:
- If soiled or damaged, the gown should be discarded (according to usual practices)
- This is acceptable when patients being treated are housed in the same location (i.e. patients residing in an isolation cohort)

Considerations for limited reuse of gowns to reduce contact transmission:
- Remove gown after each encounter with a patient
- If soiled, damaged, gown should be discarded
- If gown needs to be removed, leave the patient care area
- Other types of gowns may be considered:
  - disposable or reusable lab coats
  - reusable patient gowns
  - disposable aprons

Storage & Donning of Used Gowns:
- Gowns should be stored folded with the outer surface held inward against itself to reduce contact with other surfaces during storage OR hung in a designated area, not in contact with other gowns
- Folded gown should be stored in a clean sealable paper bag or other breathable container
- Each gown should have ONLY ONE WEARER
- Clean hands with soap and water OR alcohol-based sanitizer before and after touching/adjusting the gown for wear
- Do not touch the outside of the gown -- if contact occurs, wash hands as described above
- Wear a pair of non-sterile gloves when re-donning the gown, discard gloves when finished

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