4. **PATIENT ACCOMMODATION, PLACEMENT, & FLOW**

Accommodation of inpatients in single rooms facilitates IP&C activities. Single rooms with a private toilet, designated patient hand washing sink and designated staff hand washing sink may reduce opportunities for cross transmission between patients, particularly when the patient has poor hygiene, contaminates the environment or cannot comply with IP&C measures because of age or decreased cognitive abilities.

When availability of single rooms is limited, priorities for placement of patients in single rooms are determined by the PCRA. Priority for single rooms goes to patients:

- Requiring Additional Precautions
- Identified as high risk for transmission of microorganisms (e.g., stool incontinence, uncontained secretions)
- Identified as being at higher risk of acquisition and adverse outcomes resulting from transmission of microorganisms (e.g., immunosuppression, open wounds, indwelling catheters)

When single rooms are not available and rooms must be shared, factors to be considered with shared rooms include:

- Selecting appropriate roommates
- Avoiding placing patients at high risk of complications should they become infected in rooms with patients with transmissible infections, diarrhea or open wounds
- Delineating the boundary of the potentially contaminated patient area within the shared room (e.g., draw privacy curtain around patient)
- Preventing transmission risks through sharing of sinks and toilets
- Assessing activities of the roommates and their visitors

Patient flow refers to patient transfer/transport within and outside of the facility, and patient activity. There is a potential for exposure to and transmission of microorganisms as a result of patient activity and transport due to inadvertent contact with other patients, patient care items and environmental surfaces. *Patients should not be transported between patient care units, departments or facilities unless medically essential.* Frequent patient transfers should be avoided as this increases the number of interactions with staff and other patients, providing opportunities for transmission to occur. The HCW, including bed/accommodation co-ordinators, are responsible for selecting the most appropriate accommodation based on the PCRA and for prioritizing use of single rooms and AirRs if these are scarce. When in doubt regarding accommodation, consult IP&C.

Avoid transfer of patients within facilities unless medically indicated. When Additional Precautions are necessary, patients should leave their rooms for medically necessary purposes only. Communication between the transporting area and the receiving area is important to ensure consistency of precautions and to decrease unnecessary waiting time in public areas. Apply source control measures (e.g., requesting patient to perform hand hygiene before leaving their room, cover skin lesions, wear a mask).