

## Care pathway for residents with viral gastroenteritis

This care pathway should be used by staff caring for residents with viral gastroenteritis who are symptomatic with diarrhoea and or vomiting.

It should be used in association with your 'Viral gastroenteritis/Norovirus Policy for Care Home settings' and followed until the resident is symptom free for 48 hours.

Name of resident:	
Aim:	To safely care for a resident with viral gastroenteritis, reducing the risk of complications of the illness and preventing the spread of infection to other residents.

1.	The resident should be cared for in their room which should have en-suite facilities, or an allocated commode.
2.	A factsheet on viral gastroenteritis should be given to the resident and relatives as appropriate.
3.	Disposable apron and gloves should be worn by <b>all</b> staff when entering the room, whether providing hands-on care or not. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new disposable apron and gloves should be worn for each task undertaken.</li> <li>• Before leaving the resident's room, remove and dispose of gloves, wash hands, then remove and dispose of apron, wash hands. Hands should be washed with liquid soap and warm running water and dried with paper towels.</li> </ul>
4.	Alcohol handrub should <b>not</b> be used as it is not effective at killing the virus which causes viral gastroenteritis.
5.	If the resident has diarrhoea, an accurate record of bowel function using the Bristol Stool Form Scale should be maintained.
6.	To prevent dehydration, fluid intake should be encouraged and recorded if indicated. The GP should be contacted if there are any concerns of dehydration as subcutaneous or intravenous fluid support may be required.
7.	Assistance with hand hygiene should be given to the resident after using a commode or toilet and always before meals and drinks. If the resident is unable to wash their hands, non-alcohol skin wipes should be provided.
8.	The resident's room, including en-suite facilities, should be kept free from clutter to enable effective cleaning.

9.	The resident's room should be cleaned at least twice daily to reduce the virus from the environment. A chlorine-based disinfectant solution should be used, e.g. Milton 2% at a dilution of 1,000 parts per million (50 mls of Milton in 1 litre of water). All hard surfaces should be wiped with the solution, especially those frequently touched by the resident. Single use disposable cleaning cloths should be used.
10.	Medical equipment should be 'single patient use' and decontaminated with a chlorine-based disinfectant solution, e.g. Milton 2% at a dilution of 1,000 parts per million (50 mls of Milton in 1 litre of water), after each use and before removing it from the room.
11.	<b>All</b> surfaces of the commode or en-suite toilet should be cleaned (including frame, seat, under seat, lid, arms, flush handle) with a chlorine-based disinfectant solution after each use, e.g. Milton 2% at a dilution of 1,000 parts per million (50 mls of Milton in 1 litre of water). Used commode pans should be covered with a lid or paper towel during transportation to the sluice/dirty utility room.
12.	All used and soiled linen, including clothing, should be washed as 'infected laundry' and placed in a water soluble (alginate) bag inside the correct coloured laundry bag, this should be removed immediately from the resident's room to the laundry. Disposable apron and gloves should always be worn when handling used and/or soiled linen and clothing.
13.	Waste should be placed in a foot operated bin with a lid and disposed of as infectious waste as per local policy.
14.	Visitors should be asked to wash their hands before leaving a resident's room and the establishment. Disposable apron and gloves are not required to be worn by visitors unless they are providing direct care.
15.	If the resident requires transfer to another healthcare facility, e.g. acute hospital, staff at the destination must be notified of the infection before transfer and documentation provided, e.g. Inter-Health and Social Care Infection Control Transfer Form or patient passport.
16.	Isolation of the resident may be discontinued when they have been symptom free for 48 hours.
17.	The room should be deep cleaned using a chlorine-based disinfectant solution, e.g. Milton 2% at a dilution of 1,000 parts per million (50 mls of Milton in 1 litre of water). Carpets, curtains, soft furnishings should be steam cleaned.