Background Information:

- Increased incidence of patients with antibiotic-resistant infections
- Inconsistent identification of patients needing Contact Precautions
- Challenge to implement Contact Precautions in the perianesthesia area given the physical environment
- Difficulty in disseminating information to staff in a consistent and timely manner

Objectives:

- Reduce the spread of antibiotic-resistant organisms
- Increase staff compliance with infection control policies r/t antibiotic-resistant organisms
- Educate the staff about current infection control standards and guidelines r/t antibiotic-resistant organisms
- Simplify and streamline the way Contact Precautions are implemented in the perianesthesia area

Implementation:

- Charge nurse receives a list daily from the Infection Control Department of scheduled patients that require Contact Precautions
- Created ‘clean’ and ‘dirty’ isolation zones to simplify care of Contact Precaution patients and to reduce spread of infections
- Implemented practice of hanging Contact Precaution sign on curtain outside patients’ bay to clearly identify patients in isolation
- PACU Infection Control Liaison RN’s educate staff individually about guidelines for Contact Precautions, perform audits to assess compliance, and provide ongoing education

Statement of Successful Practice:

- PACU staff will be better able to identify patients in need of Contact Precautions and will be better equipped to comply with the guidelines and policies surrounding care of patients with antibiotic-resistant infections

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nurses:

Nurses are better able to maintain appropriate precautions when caring for patients with antibiotic-resistant organisms thereby protecting other patients from the spread of these increasingly prevalent infections