

	Multiple Chemical Sensitivities – Care of Patients With	
	Applicability: Acute Care	Revised Date:
Service: Client Care	Originating Date: 29-Oct-2008	
Section: Patient/Resident/Client Safety		
Approved by: Clinical Practice Leader, AC Nursing	Next Review Date:	
Originator: Acute Care Nursing		
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1.0 Purpose

To outline the patient care responsibilities when caring for a patient experiencing multiple chemical sensitivities (MCS)

2.0 Background

MCS is an acquired chronic disorder characterized by recurrent symptoms occurring in response to low levels of exposure to multiple unrelated chemicals. The symptoms generally occur in one of four categories: central nervous system, circulatory, respiratory and mucous irritation or metabolic that would include enzymes, blood, kidneys, GI tract, etc. Patient with a history of maladaptive reactions to chemicals found in perfumes, pesticides, detergents, household cleaners, etc. may have or develop multiple chemical sensitivities. Approximately 75% of those affected are women, possibly due to endocrine disruption. People in their 30s and 40s are most strongly affected as well as children and others who are more susceptible to the effects of pesticides and products containing toxic chemicals. The population most strongly identified with this condition includes: industrial workers, teachers, nurses, sick building occupants and those living in chemically contaminated communities. Approximately 3% of Canadians have been diagnosed with environmental sensitivities.

3.0 Prior to Admission

Identify individuals at risk on admission in Emergency Department, Admitting or the Pre-admission Clinic and note this information in the patient's chart.

Note: Once functionality is available to enter alerts in the electronic record, this procedure will be updated to reflect that process.

4.0 On Admission

4.1 Assign the patient to a private room, with negative pressure, if available. Do not use a room that has been recently painted.