

Question 19 (7 marks)

- (a) What standard precautions should be implemented to reduce the risk of cross-infection between patients, staff and visitors? 3

Correct PPE (personal protective equipment), cleaning and sterilization are all precautions in reducing risk of cross-infections. Patients should be isolated from the non-infected, in closed off hospital rooms. Staff should wear the correct PPE, and make sure they sterilise all the equipment they use with the patient. Visitors should also wear correct PPE, but if infection is too deadly or spreadable, the visitors are urged to keep distance.

- (b) What additional (transmission-based) precautions should be taken to manage a patient with each of the following?

(i) Air-borne pathogen 2
Isolated hospital rooms that have no other non-infected patients around. Also the use of wearing a mask to prevent an air-borne pathogen from entering through mouth or nose.

(ii) Contact pathogen 2
Precautions to manage contact pathogens should include PPE. The use of gloves is vital, and a mask, gown, goggles should also be used. Hand hygiene is extremely important.