

**Question 19** (7 marks)

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

The use of personal protective equipment, such as gloves, gowns, goggles and masks, are extremely important in preventing cross-infection. However, the first and main strategy to reduce this risk is the implementation of hand washing and hand hygiene. Nurses and doctors must wash their hands before seeing a patient and after, before treating a patient and after and also after touching persons. Neutral detergents ~~must~~ must also be used to sterilise rooms and beds in between patients as well.

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

- (i) Air-borne pathogen These patients must be placed **2**

in single rooms to reduce the spread of their illness, and in serious cases rooms with no contact with family and friends. Masks and gowns must be used and specialised disinfectants should be used rather than neutral detergents to kill the pathogen.

- (ii) Contact pathogen Gloves, gowns and hand washing **2**

must be used. Wounds or sores must be covered to reduce the risk of cross-infection and these patients may also be placed in single rooms. Specialised disinfectants should also be used to fully sterilise all equipment and singular bath rooms.