

Table V. Prevention of Nosocomial Infections in NICU.

- Observe recommendations for universal precautions with all patient contact
 - Gloves
 - Gowns, mask and isolation as indicated
 - Nursery design/engineering
 - Appropriate nursing: patient ratio
 - Avoid overcrowding and excessive workload
 - Readily accessible sinks, antiseptic solutions, soaps and paper towels
 - Handwashing
 - Improve handwashing compliance
 - Wash hands before and after each patient encounter
 - Appropriate use of soap, alcohol-based preparations or antiseptic solutions
 - Alcohol based antiseptic solution at each patient bedside
 - Provide emollients for nursery staff
 - Education and feedback for nursery staff
 - Minimizing risk of CVC contamination
 - Maximal sterile barrier precautions during CVC insertion
 - Local antiseptics with chlorhexidine gluconate
 - Minimize repeated entry into the line for laboratory tests
 - Aseptic technique when entering the line
 - Minimize CVC days
 - Sterile preparation of all fluids to be administered via a CVC
 - Meticulous skin care
 - Encourage early and appropriate advancement of enteral feedings
 - Education and feedback for nursery personnel
 - Continuous monitoring and surveillance of nosocomial infection rates in the NICU
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CVC, central venous catheter; NICU, neonatal intensive care unit.