

## Serratia in the NICU

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### What is Serratia?

- Serratia is a germ or bacteria found in soil, water, plants and animals.
- In people, Serratia is found in the bowels (gut), nose and throat.

### Can Serratia be treated?

- Yes. If there is a Serratia infection, antibiotic medication is usually given.
- Sometimes Serratia is found but there is no infection. This is called the carrier state. Treatment is usually not needed.

### How is Serratia spread?

- Serratia is spread by touching babies who have it or by sharing items that have been used in their care.
- It can be found on counter tops, faucets and in sinks and can be picked up on hands
- Using Contact Precautions (isolation) helps prevent the spread of Serratia.

### What are Contact Precautions?

Contact Precautions (isolation) help reduce the risk of spreading infections to babies, visitors and staff. If your baby has Serratia, they are put in contact precautions.

This means:

- ✓ A sign is put up to let staff, parents and visitors know about Contact Precautions.
- ✓ When entering the area or room, everyone must clean their hands and wear the gowns and gloves provided.
- ✓ Anyone, including parents, helping with your baby's care must wear a gown and gloves.
- ✓ Before leaving the room, everyone must take off their gowns and gloves and clean their hands.

**Stop the spread of germs and infection.  
Clean your hands.**



This fact sheet provides basic general information only and is to be used as a quick guide, not as a complete resource on the subject. If you have any further questions, ask Infection Prevention & Control or your health care provider.