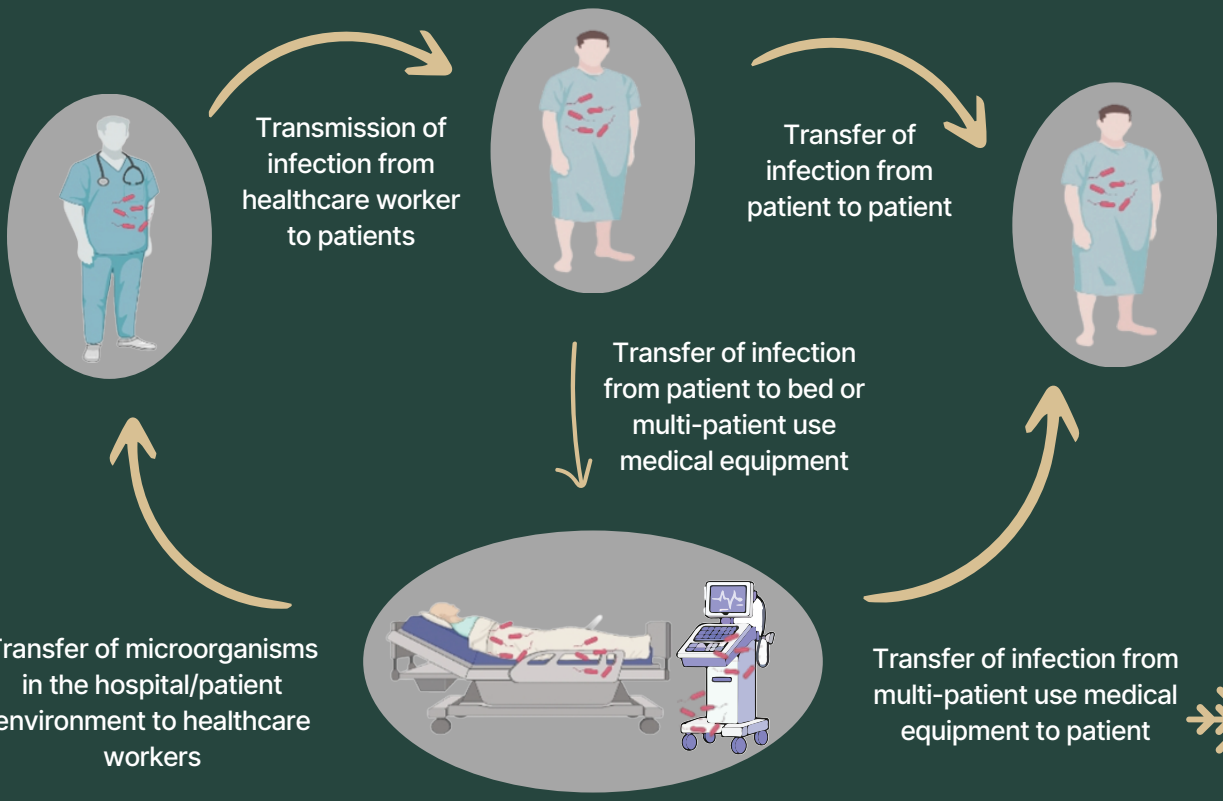
CROSS-CONTAMINATION

CROSS-CONTAMINATION OCCURS WHEN BACTERIA OR OTHER ORGANISMS ARE TRANSFERRED FROM ONE PERSON OR OBJECT TO ANOTHER, EITHER THROUGH DIRECT CONTACT OR INDIRECTLY BY TOUCHING CONTAMINATED SURFACES. IN HOSPITALS, THIS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SERIOUS HOSPITAL ACQUIRED INFECTIONS IN PATIENTS.

Failure to maintain proper hand hygiene, use PPE correctly, or implement effective cleaning and disinfection practices can lead to cross-contamination, increasing the risk of infection spread.



How do we reduce the risk of cross-contamination?

- Follow proper waste disposal protocols
- Store clean linen, supplies, and equipment away from dirty in separate designated areas
- Appropriate PPE use
- Proper Hand Hygiene
- Single-use items must be discarded after patient use. Attempts to clean or disinfect these items for reuse with other patients are strictly prohibited
- Effective cleaning and disinfection of surfaces and multi-patient use equipment, such as vital sign machines and glucometers. Don't forget to follow your "wet times" and keep areas wet for the amount of time indicated