FIG 1. BREAKING THE CHAIN OF INFECTION: ACTIONS FOR NURSES

1. Causative organism (e.g., virus, bacteria, fungus or parasite)
2. Reservoir/host (e.g., human, animal, food, water or the environment)
3. Portal of exit (e.g., sputum, urine or blood)
4. Mode of transmission (e.g., contact, droplet, airborne)
5. Portal of entry (e.g., nose, mouth, cut, wound or catheter)
6. Susceptible host (person at risk of infection)

A. Improve knowledge and information through local investigation of infections. Know what your local surveillance data and the steps you need to take in preventing onward transmission.
B. Understand reservoir/host and apply effective cleaning and decontamination.
C. Deliver focused and safe interventions, ensuring standard precautions are adhered to and appropriate procedures for the isolation of patients with transmissible infections are put in place as per local policy.
D. Apply precautions to prevent transmission of causative organisms
   - Standard precautions/contact precautions/isolation of patients
   - Hand hygiene
   - Decontamination
   - Cleaning of the environment
   - Safe handling of food and water
   - Safe handling of linen and waste

E. Deliver safe practices at every patient intervention for devices and procedures
   - Aseptic techniques
   - Safe catheter insertion and care
   - Safe insertion and care of devices
   - Safe surgical procedures and surgical prophylaxis

F. Perform and act on patient risk assessment
   - Are your patients vulnerable to infection? What actions do you need to take to support them?
   - Ensure patients are well hydrated and monitor fluid balance
   - Ensure adequate nutrition
   - Encourage vaccination