



HOMES AND SENIORS SERVICES

POLICY & PROCEDURE NUMBER: 2.13

DEPARTMENT: *Infection Control*

SUBJECT: *Equipment Cleaning, Disinfection, Sterilization Protocol*

APPROVAL DATE: April 2004

REVISION DATE: March 2016

REVISION DATE: March 2017

REVIEW DATE: November 2018

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PURPOSE:

All equipment used for resident care will be appropriately cleaned, disinfected and/or sterilized to minimize the risk of transmission of infection by reducing micro-organism contamination on inanimate objects.

Damage to medical equipment/devices from foreign material (e.g. blood, body fluids) or inappropriate handling will be minimized.

All equipment/devices, regardless of source, must meet best practices whether the equipment/device is purchased, loaned, Physician-owned, is for research or has been obtained by any other method.

DEFINITIONS:

Cleaning – The physical removal of foreign material (dust/soil and visible debris, organic material such as blood) usually accomplished with water, detergents and mechanical action. Cleaning physically removes rather than kills micro-organisms.

Bioburden: The number and types of viable micro-organisms that contaminate the equipment/device.

Decontamination – Removes disease producing micro-organisms, in order to render the object safe for handling.

Detergent – A synthetic cleaning agent that can emulsify oil and suspend soil. It contains surfactants; may also contain enzymatic cleaner and/or whitening agents.

Disinfectant - A process/product that is used in medical equipment/devices resulting in the disinfection of that equipment/device

Disinfection – Destroys/inactivates most disease producing micro-organisms. Disinfection does not destroy bacterial spores.

Enzymatic Cleaner – Is a solution that aids in the removal of proteinaceous material on medical equipment/devices when plain water and/or detergent solutions are considered inadequate.

Medical Equipment/Devices – Any instrument, apparatus, appliance, material or other article intended to be used for human beings for the purpose of diagnosis, prevention, monitoring, treatment, or alleviation of disease, injury or handicap; investigation, or modification of an anatomical or physiological process.

Reprocessing – The steps performed to prepare used medical equipment/devices for use (e.g. cleaning, disinfection, sterilization).



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Reusable – A designation given by the product manufacturer that allows it, through the selection of materials and or components, to be reused.

Single Use/Disposable – Products designated by the manufacturer for single-use only. Single-use medical equipment/devices must NOT be reprocessed.

Sterilant - A chemical used on medical equipment/devices which results in sterilization of the equipment/device.

Sterilization – The level of reprocessing required when processing critical equipment/devices. It destroys all forms of microbial life form, including, bacteria, viruses, spores and fungi.

Equipment/devices must be cleaned thoroughly before effective sterilization can take place.

PROCEDURE

- Procedures should be established for assigning responsibility and accountability for routine cleaning of all health care equipment – see Discipline Specific Job Routines
- A cleaning schedule should be established and documented. Environmental Considerations for Equipment/Devices Reprocessing
- There must be a centralized area for reprocessing dirty/soiled medical equipment/devices.
- There must be a dedicated area in the home for the cleaning and storage of necessary equipment and supplies.
- There must be a clear physical separation between soiled and clean areas.
- There must be easy access to hand hygiene facilities.
- There must be easy access to emergency supplies.
- The reprocessing area is regularly and adequately cleaned.
- Eating, drinking, smoking, applying cosmetics or lip balm, and handling of contact lenses shall not take place in decontamination areas.

Selection of Product/Process for Reprocessing

Products used for any/all equipment/device reprocessing must be approved by the Infection Control Committee/Environmental Manager.

The reprocessing method and products required for each medical equipment/device will depend on the intended use of the equipment/device and the potential risk for infection in the use of the equipment/device.



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SPAULDING’S CLASSIFICATION OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT/DEVICES AND REQUIRED LEVEL OF CLEANING/DISINFECTION

Classification	Definitions	Level of Processing/Reprocessing
Critical Equipment/ Device	Equipment/ device enters sterile body cavity, contacts sterile tissue, enters vascular system	Cleaning followed by Sterilization
Semi – Critical Equipment/ Device	Equipment / device contacts non-intact skin or mucous membranes but does not penetrate.	Cleaning followed by High Level of Disinfectant - HLD (as a minimum). Sterilization is preferred.
Non – Critical Equipment/ Device	Equipment/ device that touches only intact skin and not mucous membranes; does not directly touch resident	Cleaning followed by Low Level Disinfection - LLD
Reference: Provincial Infectious Disease Advisory Committee (PIDAC), March 2006 ~ <i>Best Practices for Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization</i>		

Manufactures Recommendations for Product Use

Refer to Appendix B – Cleaning and Disinfection Decision Chart

CLEANING OF HOME SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT/DEVICES
ALL ITEMS DISINFECTED DAILY AFTER USE

ALL ITEMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All items to be disinfected must first be cleaned using a detergent or recommended cleaner • Wash all equipment in soap and water and rinse thoroughly. • Disinfection and/or sterilization are only effective when cleaning is done first to remove the dirt which contains microorganisms.
TUBS, SHOWERS,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thoroughly clean the inside of the tub or all surfaces of the



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<p>CHAIRS AND ANY OTHER EQUIPMENT USED COMMUNALLY IN THE</p>	<p>shower chair/bath equipment with fresh water and soap using a scrub brush</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rinse the cleaned tub or all surfaces of the shower chair/bath equipment well. • Liberally spray disinfectant on the inside of the tub and all surfaces of the shower chair/bath equipment (e.g. Arjo disinfectant, Virox) • Follow manufacturer’s disinfectant use guidelines to determine number of contact minutes to ensure that all micro-organisms are killed. • Rinse the tub and all surfaces of the shower chair/bath equipment with clean water. • Bath slings are for single use only and should be laundered after use for each Resident bath
<p>BEDPANS AND URINE COLLECTION HATS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bedpans and urine collection hats should be reserved for use by a single Resident and labelled appropriately. • In the hopper, using soap, water and a scrubber, remove all organic matter (fecal matter, vomitus, etc.) from the bedpan, Kbasin/ basin/urinal. • Thoroughly clean the inside of the bedpans and urine collection hats with fresh water and soap using a scrub brush (e.g. Arjo, Virox) • Submerge and soak the equipment/scrub brush in disinfectant for the manufacturer’s specific contact time to ensure that all micro-organisms are killed. • Rinse thoroughly in clean water and dry. • Return items to the Resident’s room or the clean utility room; return the scrub brush to the dirty utility room. • Thoroughly clean the tub/sink where items were disinfected as per the tub cleaning procedure.
<p>NAIL CLIPPERS/ SCISSORS/ FOOT CARE EQUIPMENT/ FORCEPS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thoroughly cleanse with soap and water • Submerge and soak the equipment/devices in disinfectant for the manufacturer’s specific contact time to ensure that all micro-organisms are killed (e.g. Arjo, Virox) • Rinse thoroughly in clean water and dry.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Return items to the Resident's room or appropriate storage place.
BLOOD PRESSURE CUFFS/STETHOSCOPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thoroughly cleanse with soap and water if visibly soiled with blood/body fluids. Liberally spray disinfectant Follow manufacturer's disinfectant use guidelines to determine number of contact minutes to ensure that all micro-organisms are killed (e.g. Arjo, Virox) Dry thoroughly
RECREATION EQUIPMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Items that are soiled will be cleaned and then disinfected by spraying with Virox either air drying or drying with towelling. If the item is suitable for laundering in a washing machine, this will be done before the next use. <p><u>Cleaning of Specific Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nylon Exercise Bands: launder quarterly by placing in a mesh bag and putting through the washing machine. Hang to dry. Carpet Bowling: Bowling balls are to be put through the dishwasher once per quarter or more often if needed. Shuffleboard: Pins and rocks are to be wiped down with Virox quarterly. Shuffleboard is to be cleaned with damp cloth as needed. Vacuum up used wax and replace wax once per quarter or as needed. Bingo Equipment: Bingo chips are to be placed in a net bag and put through the dishwasher once per quarter. Air dry or lay out on towelling to dry. Bingo cards and felt dabbers are to be wiped off quarterly with Virox. Other Equipment: Non-porous equipment such as balls, games etc. are to be sprayed with Virox disinfectant, air dried every six months.
DIETARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For cleaning and disinfection of dietary equipment – refer to Dietary Policy and Procedure Manual



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Use of Disinfectants

All chemical disinfectants will be mixed according to the manufacture's recommendations before use. The disinfectant will be applied to the items for the specific contact time to ensure the chemical eradicates the micro-organisms.

Processing Single-Use/Disposable Objects

Single-use/disposable equipment/devices must NOT be cleaned/disinfected and reused.

Education and Training

County of Elgin Homes will develop a schedule for the frequency of education and training as well as competency for all personnel involved in the reprocessing of medical equipment/devices.

- Any individual involved in the cleaning, disinfection and/or sterilization of medical equipment/devices must be properly trained and practices audited on a regular basis in collaboration with the Joint Health and Safety Committee and/or department supervisor to verify that standards are met.
- Staff training will include information on cleaning, disinfection and/or sterilization, occupational health and safety issues, and infection control and prevention.
- Staff orientation and continuing education should be provided and documented by Manager of Resident Care/designate.

Documentation

Homes will develop a cleaning and disinfection schedule for all pieces of equipment.

Occupational Health and Safety

- Occupational Health and Safety policies/protocols will be in place in the home
- Chemicals are stored and handled appropriately and the SDS documentation is available as required by the Workplace Hazards Material Information System (WHMIS).
- Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn as necessary for all reprocessing activities.
- Procedures will be in place for immediate response to worker's exposure to blood and body fluids, and sharp injuries.

OUTCOME

All equipment/devices used on Residents will be appropriately cleaned, disinfected and/or sterilized to prevent/minimize transmission of micro-organisms.

Reference: Spaulding Classification of Medical Equipment Disinfection as per page 3