



**OPERATIONAL DIRECTIVE**

**Practice Directive:**

*Cleaning and Disinfecting of Non-Critical Reusable Resident Equipment/Items*

**Revision Date:**  
*June 17, 2024*

**Page:**  
*1 of 5*

**Supersedes:**  
*October 30, 2008*

**PURPOSE AND INTENT**

- To provide guidance of Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) best practice for the cleaning and low-level disinfection of reusable and non-critical items and equipment (will be referred to as “item” for the rest of the document) used in Long Term Care/Personal Care Homes.

**1.0 PRACTICE OUTCOME**

- To reduce the transmission of microorganisms due to contaminated non-critical reusable resident items
- To have appropriately cleaned and disinfected reusable non-critical items before use on each resident

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

- In the healthcare environment contaminated items can play a role in the transmission of health care-associated infections for all patients, residents and clients (PRC).
- The risk of infection transmission from items can be reduced by cleaning and disinfecting all items that come in contact with the (PRC).

**3.0 DEFINITIONS**

- **Cleaning:** The physical removal of foreign material, e.g. dust, soil and organic material such as blood, secretions, excretions and microorganisms. Cleaning physically removes rather than kills microorganisms. Cleaning reduces or eliminates the reservoirs of potential pathogenic organisms. It is accomplished with water, detergents and mechanical action.
- **Contamination:** The presence of microorganisms on inanimate objects (e.g. clothing, surgical instruments) or microorganisms transported transiently on body surfaces (e.g. hands), or in substances (e.g. water, food, milk).
- **Disinfectant Cleaner:** Ready-to-use disinfectant cleaner based on proprietary hydrogen peroxide (AHP®) technology to deliver fast, effective cleaning performance. Also disinfects in 60 second (e.g., Accel Intervention). Can be used to remove visible soiling (clean) with one wipe, use a second wipe to disinfect. Or can both clean and disinfect if surface is not visibly soiled.
- **Disinfection:** The inactivation of disease producing organisms. Disinfection does not destroy high levels of bacterial spores. Disinfectants are used on inanimate objects. Disinfection usually involves chemicals, heat or ultraviolet light. Levels of chemical disinfection vary with the type of product used.

- Non-Critical Reusable Items: Items that either touch only intact skin but not mucous membranes or do not directly touch the resident. Examples of non-critical reusable items include: lifts, transfer boards, wheelchairs and items such as plastic assessment tools and call bells.
- Facility Approved Disinfectant: A disinfectant that has been approved by the facility/organization ([Appendix A](#)).
- Non-Critical Reusable Wipeable Items: Non-critical items composed of non-porous material able to withstand facility approved disinfectant. Examples of non-critical reusable wipeable items include: diagnostic imaging equipment, infusion pumps, IV poles, sleep surfaces, stethoscopes, walkers and wheelchairs.
- Non-Critical Reusable Hard to Clean Items: Non-critical reusable hard to clean items are composed of porous material (e.g., fabric, cardboard/paper, foam). Some examples are wheelchair cushions, puzzles, sliders, slings, craft supplies, pencils, books, magazines and transfer belts.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Gloves, gowns, masks and protective eyewear and face protection used according to the Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA).
- Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA):  
A PCRA is an activity whereby a HCW (healthcare worker), in any health care setting across the continuum of care, evaluates the likelihood of exposure to an infectious agent:
  - For a specific interaction
  - With a specific resident
  - In a specific environment (e.g. single room, hallway)
  - Under available conditions (e.g. no designated hand washing sink)Then the HCW chooses the appropriate actions/PPE needed to minimize the risk of exposure for the specific resident, other residents in the environment, the HCW, other staff, visitors, contractors, etc.
- Reprocessing: The steps performed to prepare a used medical device for reuse. The steps may include the collection and transportation of soiled devices, cleaning, inspection, disinfection, sterilization, packaging, clean transportation and storage of clean and disinfected/sterilized devices.
- Reusable: A device that has been designed and tested by the manufacturer that is suitable for reprocessing prior to use on a resident.

#### 4.0 DIRECTIVES

- Clean and disinfect all non-critical reusable items that have been in direct contact with a resident. This must be done before use in the care of another resident.
- Consult Infection Prevention and Control Prior to purchasing an item meant to be used with residents. They will help assess items for cleanability.
- Items that is dedicated to one resident and stored in a way to prevent cross contamination.

- Clean and disinfect non-critical care item(s) dedicated to an individual resident when soiled, and on a regular schedule.
- Clean and disinfect non-critical care infrequently used item(s) on a regular schedule.
- Cleaning schedules should be developed unique to each program. The frequency of cleaning should take into consideration:
  - Whether or not surfaces are high-touch or low-touch
  - The type of activity taking place in the environment
  - The infection risk associated with it
  - The vulnerability of the patient seen/treated in the area
  - The probability of contamination
  - Whether the item is in the client's home and dedicated to the client
  - If the piece of item will be used on multiple patients throughout the course of the day
- Assign responsibility and communicate expectations for cleaning and disinfection done by facility staff

## **5.0 EQUIPMENT REQUIRED**

- Facility Approved Disinfectant ([Appendix A](#)) available as either:
  - Ready to Use (RTU) wipes
  - Or
  - Liquid disinfectant and cleaning cloths (disinfectant in spray form is strongly discouraged)
- PPE according to your PCRA
- Have access to tap water if a potable water rinse is necessary after cleaning and disinfection
- Adhesive remover if necessary
- Scrub brush if required (must be cleaned and disinfected after use on each item)

## **6.0 COMPONENTS**

- **Gather** equipment.
- **Inspect** all non-critical reusable equipment/items for safety concerns prior to cleaning. Report any damaged items according to program policy.
- **Determine** surface type:
  - i. Non-critical reusable **wipeable** equipment/items
  - ii. Non-critical reusable **hard to clean** equipment/items

- iii. Refer to Cleaning Table for Non-Critical Reusable Resident Equipment/Items in Personal Care Home/Long Term Care Facility ([Appendix B](#)) for examples to assist in determining surface type, if required.
- If indicated by the manufacturer's instruction for use (MIFU), take apart item(s) to be cleaned and disinfected.
- **Cleaning and disinfection of non-critical reusable wipeable items:**
  - To clean and disinfect Non-Critical Reusable Wipeable Items:
    - i. Wear PPE according to PCRA
    - ii. Remove all tape. Remove any tape residue with adhesive tape remover
    - iii. Use Facility Approved Disinfectant ([Appendix A](#)) according to product directions
    - iv. If using a [Disinfectant Cleaner](#):
      - Remove any visible soiling with one wipe.
      - Allow the item to air dry
      - After the item has air dried, wipe with a second wipe to disinfect
      - If item is not visibly soiled use one wipe to both clean and disinfect
    - v. After using any type of Disinfectant:
      - Ensure wet contact time according to the MIFU.
      - Allow item to air dry completely before use on another resident
- **Cleaning and Disinfection of non-critical hard-to-clean-CARDBOARD/PAPER items:**
  - Clean and disinfect (see section directly above) with a Facility Approved Disinfectant (appendix A).
  - Discard if not laminated.
  - Discard if lamination not intact.
- **Cleaning and disinfection of non-critical reusable hard-to-clean-FABRIC items:**
  - Follow manufacturer's cleaning instructions.
  - Launder (machine wash and dry) according to Evidence Informed Practice Tool: [Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning for Prevention and Control of Infections in All Healthcare Settings](#).
  - Discard fabric that cannot be laundered.
- **Cleaning and Disinfection of OTHER non-critical reusable hard-to-clean items (if not listed above):**
  - Consult an infection Prevention and Control Professional or designate.
- **Items that fall into more than one category listed above:**
  - Require more than one cleaning and disinfection method.
- **Reassemble** Non-critical re-usable item after cleaning disinfection and item has air dried.
- **Store** non-critical items in a designated clean area. If dedicated to one resident, store in a way that prevents cross-contamination with other residents' items.
- **Label** if dedicated to one resident.

## 7.0 REFERENCES:

- (1) Centers for Disease Control (CDC). (July 2019) Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Healthcare. Accessed: June 17, 2024: <https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/media/pdfs/Guideline-Environmental-H.pdf>
- (2) Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA) Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC). (May 2024). Routine Practices Protocol. Accessed: June 17, 2024: [https://professionals.wrha.mb.ca/files/ipc-Routine-Practices.May2024Revisions.FINAL\\_.pdf](https://professionals.wrha.mb.ca/files/ipc-Routine-Practices.May2024Revisions.FINAL_.pdf)
- (3) WRHA, IPAC. (July 2023). Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning for Prevention and Control of Infections in All Healthcare Settings. Accessed June 17, 2024: <https://professionals.wrha.mb.ca/download/902/b/14852/best-practices-for-environmental-cleaning-for-prevention-and-control-of-infections-in-all-health-care-settings.pdf>

## 8.0 PRIMARY AUTHOR (S)

- Chantelle Riddle-Yarycky IP&C Specialist for the WRHA