

Lifts, Blood Pressure Machines and Other Non-Critical Equipment in Healthcare



Multi-use equipment and medical devices in healthcare have been linked to increased infection risk². Some of the most overlooked sources of contamination in healthcare settings are items deemed “non-critical” items. They are often not cleaned appropriately or when they need to be. These inappropriate disinfection practices of these items increase the risk of healthcare associated infections¹.

How do we decrease the risk of transmission related to Non-Critical equipment?

Staff members need to be aware of the proper cleaning and disinfecting procedures for all non-critical multi-use devices/equipment, to reduce exposure to infectious diseases and to prevent the transfer of germs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Non-Critical reusable equipment/items in direct contact with the patient or their environment shall be cleaned and/or reprocessed before use in the care of another patient, so equipment does not sit contaminated in the healthcare setting.
- Visibly soiled non-critical reusable equipment/items shall be cleaned and/or reprocessed immediately after use on a patient.
- Prior to accessing/touching the clean equipment, staff must clean their hands. By doing this, staff do not inadvertently contaminate the equipment. The clean equipment is considered a clean touch, meaning staff hands need to be cleaned prior to contact with the equipment.
- Clean equipment needs to be stored in a designated and separate clean dry area protected from dust. Do not store under sinks and/or near plumbing as leaks may occur. If a clean room is not available, the space where the equipment is stored needs to be labeled as a clean space. Some units place signs to show the equipment in the designated area is clean. Other units place tape on the floor to show the equipment in that space is clean. It is important there is an easily visible way for the staff to see the equipment has been cleaned.
- When possible, store equipment in low traffic areas. This decreases the risk of contamination of clean equipment.
- There should be a routine cleaning schedule, where a thorough clean of all non – critical/shared equipment is completed. This schedule is in addition to the cleaning that is required in between patient use.

1. APIC. (2021). Strategies to mitigate cross contamination of non – critical medical devices. Retrieved <https://apic.org/noncritical-is-critical/>
2. IPAC Canada. (2018). IPAC Canada practice recommendations. Retrieved https://ipac-canada.org/photos/custom/Members/pdf/18Jan_Cleaning_NonCrit_Equip_Comm_Practice_Recomm_final.pdf
3. Cleaning and Disinfection of Non-Critical Reusable Equipment/Items for Patients in Hospital. https://professionals.wrha.mb.ca/old/extranet/ipc/files/manuals/acutecare/Cleaning_Non-Critical_Items.pdf

