

DID YOU KNOW?

Cleaning and Disinfection

In any health care environment, contaminated equipment (or items) play a role in the transmission of germs. These germs have the potential to cause healthcare associated infections (HAIs).

The risk of spreading germs from contaminated equipment can be reduced by cleaning and disinfecting equipment.



Equipment (and items) that come in contact with a PRC must be cleaned and disinfected:

- ✓ Before use with another PRC
- ✓ When visibly soiled
- ✓ On a regular schedule when dedicated to a PRC

Most equipment is not usually cleaned and disinfected by Environmental Services/Housekeeping. Individual facilities, units, areas, and programs are responsible for assigning these tasks to their staff.

Approved Cleaning and Disinfection Products

WRHA Infection Prevention & Control recommends using an approved Accelerated Hydrogen Peroxide (AHP) product, specifically, Accel Intervention™. It is approved for use as both a cleaner and disinfectant (referred to as a low-level disinfectant cleaner).



Accel Intervention is available as a ready-to-use wipe or liquid (to be used with a cloth).

Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA)

Before cleaning and disinfecting, staff must do a PCRA to decide what personal protective equipment (PPE) to wear.

Equipment (Items) to be cleaned and disinfected

Staff should be cleaning and disinfecting all items that come into contact with a PRC's intact skin or environment. This includes, but is not limited to: Stethoscopes, ECG machines, blood pressure cuffs, pulse oximeters, computer keyboards, touch screens, thermometers, IV pumps & poles, overbed tables, exam tables, treatment chairs, stretchers, wheelchairs, etc.

Even if an item appears visibly clean, it is still contaminated after use with a PRC, or if it has been in a PRC environment. These items must still be cleaned and disinfected.

Items that come into contact with mucous membranes or sterile body sites must be sent to Medical Device Reprocessing (MDR) for appropriate cleaning and disinfection.

Wet Contact Time

Know the wet contact time of the product you are using! Disinfectant Cleaners have a “wet contact time”, which is the amount of time the product must remain “wet” on a surface to ensure proper disinfection. The surface(s) you are wiping should maintain a “glossy” look for one minute. Do not saturate the surface, as it may lead to damage to the surface over time. Allow to air dry before use. Do not wipe dry.

Accel Intervention™ has a one (1) minute wet contact time. Other products may have longer wet contact times. Be sure to check the label of the product you are using.

If the surface dries before the wet contact time is complete, re-wipe the item with a fresh wipe/cloth to complete the wet contact time.

Cleaning and Disinfection Guidelines

The WRHA has a Cleaning and Disinfection of Non-Critical Equipment/Items Operational Directive available online. It is

currently under review. An updated comprehensive version for the Acute, Long-Term Care, and Community sectors will be available in Summer 2025.



Basic Principles

Three things you need for effective cleaning and disinfecting:

1. IP&C approved cleaner disinfectant (e.g., Accel Intervention™)
2. Correct wet contact time
3. Friction (using a scrubbing motion)

If an item is visibly soiled, use an AHP wipe or liquid (AHP) with a cloth to remove the soiling. Discard the wipe or put the cloth into the laundry.

Next, use two (2) separate AHP wipes or cloths to clean and disinfect.

1. The first wipe/cloth is to clean
2. The second is to disinfect the item

If an item is visibly clean, only one (1) AHP wipe/cloth is needed to both clean and disinfect.

Frequently change wipes/cloths during cleaning and disinfection. It's time to change them when:

- It becomes visibly soiled **OR**
- Dries out **OR**
- You need to wipe another item or a large surface (e.g., a countertop).

Never re-wet a cloth with liquid, place it in the laundry, and use a new cloth.

If you are using a bottle of liquid disinfectant cleaner, use a flip-top lid (not a spray). Apply the product to the cloth, not the surface you are cleaning.

