



 <p>Winnipeg Regional Health Authority Office régional de la santé de Winnipeg Caring for Health À l'écoute de notre santé</p> <p>Operational Directive</p>	<p>WRHA Infection Prevention & Control Program</p>		
	<p>Nursing Foot Care Infection Prevention & Control Management in Hospitals</p>		<p>Page 1 of 4</p>
	<p>Approval Signature: N/A</p>		<p>Supersedes: Nursing Foot Care Infection Prevention & Control Management Policy #90.00.020, August 2006</p>
	<p>Date of Approval: September 9, 2013</p>		
<p>Review Date: September 2016</p>			

1.0 PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To prevent infections related to care provided by a Foot Care Nurse within the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA) facilities and WRHA funded facilities.
- 1.2 To provide a safe working environment for Foot Care Nurses within the WRHA.
- 1.3 To eliminate the risk of transmission of pathogens between patients and the healthcare worker.

2.0 PREAMBLE:

- 2.1 In the hospital setting, contaminated critical/non critical devices, items and equipment can play a role in the transmission of potentially harmful microorganisms.
- 2.2 Medical devices, items and equipment within the healthcare setting have a greater potential to spread infection than items in a non-healthcare setting, mainly due to three factors: the increased presence of potentially harmful bacteria, multiple opportunities to come into contact with contaminated items, and the increased susceptibility of the population served.

3.0 DEFINITIONS:

- 3.1 Antiseptic: A chemical that kills or reduces microorganisms on living skin or mucous membranes. Antiseptics should not be used in Housekeeping.

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- 3.2 Cleaning: The physical removal of foreign material, e.g., dust, soil, organic material such as blood, secretions, excretions and microorganisms. It is accomplished with water, detergents and mechanical action. Cleaning physically removes rather than kills microorganisms. Cleaning reduces or eliminates the reservoirs of potential pathogenic microorganisms.
- 3.3 Foot Care Nurse: A Foot Care Nurse is a regulated professional who has passed additional competencies specific to the foot and lower limb.
- 3.4 Nursing Foot Care: Nursing interventions specific to the foot using non-invasive techniques including health promotion and patient/resident/client teaching.
- 3.5 Personal Protective Equipment: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) consists of gowns, gloves, masks/respirators and facial protection that can be used to provide a barrier that will prevent potential exposure to infectious organisms.
- 3.6 Routine Practices: A comprehensive set of IP&C measures that have been developed for use in the routine care of all patients, at all times, in all healthcare settings. Routine Practices aim to minimize or prevent healthcare associated infections in all individuals in the healthcare setting including patients, healthcare workers, other staff, visitors, contractors, students, etc.
- 3.7 Single-Use: A device designated by the manufacturer for one use only.
- 3.8 Sterilization: The destruction of all forms of microbial life including bacteria, viruses, spores and fungi. Items must be cleaned thoroughly before effective sterilization can take place.

4.0 OPERATIONAL DIRECTIVES:

- 4.1 All foot care equipment for re-use must be capable of being cleaned in a detergent and water to remove organic matter.
- 4.2 Hospital owned foot care instruments must be sent to Medical Device Reprocessing for sterilization.
- 4.3 Single-use items such as emery boards, orange sticks and rotary tool disks must be **discarded** after use. If a patient's own equipment is used, it must be kept clean and dry.



- 4.4 Instruments used in foot care must be sterile before use on a patient. The recommended methods of sterilization for foot care instruments include dry heat, autoclave, or chemosterilant with appropriate exposure time specified by the manufacturer. Instruments may be packaged in sets. Instruments that must be **sterilized** prior to use include the following:
- Nail nippers
 - Foot dresser file
 - Black's file
 - Rasp
 - Scalpel handle (for attachment of blade)
 - Nail probe
 - Callus parer

5.0 PROCEDURES:

5.1 Nursing Foot Care:

- 5.1.1 Cleanse the area with an antiseptic.
- 5.1.2 Perform nursing foot care according to nursing standards of practice. Cover with a sterile dressing if the skin is breached.
- 5.1.3 Educate the patient regarding signs and symptoms of infection. Seek medical attention if signs and symptoms of infection persist.
- 5.1.4 Document on the patient's health record and report if required according to program or site policy.

5.2 Cleaning of Foot Care Instruments:

- 5.2.1 Apply Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) per Routine Practices.
- 5.2.2 Clean re-usable instruments with detergent formulated for the cleaning of medical instruments following manufacturer's instructions.
- 5.2.3 Use a soft bristle brush to clean re-usable instruments in a clean basin under warm water to prevent splashing. Disposable brush is preferred. If brush is not disposable, clean, disinfect and dry between uses. Ensure basin is cleaned/disinfected prior to and after use.
- 5.2.4 Rinse thoroughly with tap water.
- 5.2.5 Inspect all surfaces and hinges of re-usable instruments for cleanliness.

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- 5.2.6 Dry instruments and check for functionality prior to sterilization. Air drying is preferred. If using a towel, it should be a lint free towel.
- 5.2.7 If used, blades on foot care instruments should be disposed of in appropriate puncture proof sharps container. Blades are single use only.
- 5.2.8 Transport cleaned instruments ready for sterilization, in a puncture proof container.
- 5.2.9 Ensure re-usable instruments are **sterilized** according to manufacturer's directions prior to use on another patient.
- 5.2.10 Ensure that sterilized instrument packages are intact prior to opening them for use on a patient, i.e., not punctured or torn.

6.0 REFERENCES:

- 6.1 Canadian Standards Association. Decontamination of Reusable Medical Devices Z314.8-08
- 6.2 Canadian Standards Association. Effective Sterilization in Health Care Facilities by the Steam Process Z314.3-09
- 6.3 Manitoba Health (2012) Routine Practices and Additional Precautions: Preventing the Transmission of Infection in Health Care. Accessed Sept 18, 2013 from: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/docs/ipc/rpap.pdf>
- 6.4 Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee. (2010) Best Practices for Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization of Medical Equipment/Devices in All Health Care Settings, 3rd edition. Accessed Sept 18, 2013 from: http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/PIDAC_Cleaning_Disinfection_and_Sterilization_2013.pdf
- 6.5 Public Health Agency of Canada. (1997) Infection Control Guidelines for Foot Care for Health Care Providers.

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