

# Routine Practices

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Education for Health Care Staff

## Management of the Patient/ Resident/Client Visitor Management and Education

### **CLEANING OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

- Do not eat or drink in areas where patient/resident/client (PRC) care is provided.
- Whenever possible dedicate non-critical equipment to a single PRC
- Assign responsibility and accountability for routine cleaning of PRC equipment
- Ensure environmental cleaning follows a set procedure and frequency
- Monitor cleaning practices
- Ensure surfaces can be easily cleaned e.g.: minimize the use of tape, minimize unnecessary equipment on surfaces
- Increase frequency of cleaning of surfaces that are touched or used more often
- In hospital and LTC facilities, ensure rooms/spaces are terminally cleaned following discharge or discontinuation of Additional Precautions
- Use facility approved cleaners and disinfectants

### **CLEANING AND DISINFECTION OF NON-CRITICAL PRC EQUIPMENT**

- Contamination of shared PRC equipment has been implicated in infection transmission
- Clean and disinfect items that have in direct contact with a PRC before use on another PRC
- Clean and disinfect equipment dedicated to a PRC according to a regular schedule
- Dedicate bedpans and commodes for single PRC use and label. Clean and disinfect before use on another PRC
- Store sterile/clean supplies in a designated and separate clean dry area protected from dust.
- Discard all personal care items (e.g. tissues, lotions) and disposable equipment left in room following transfer, terminal cleaning or discharge.
- Assign responsibility for regular cleaning of computer keyboards and computer carts used in healthcare.
- Ensure computer keyboards in PRC's rooms are cleaned after discharge or terminal cleaning
- Consider computer keyboards, touch pads, remote controls and other electronic devices used in healthcare as contaminated. Perform hand hygiene after using, especially before touching a PRC or their environment/supplies.

### **HANDLING OF LINEN**

- Risk from contaminated linen is negligible.
- Handle soiled linen with a minimal shaking and bag linen at the site of collection.
- Handle soiled linen the same way for all PRCs
- Separate clean and soiled linen during transport and storage
- Laundry chutes if used, should be properly designed and maintained and used in a manner to prevent splashes and sprays.



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- Change bed linen regularly and when soiled.
- Roll or fold heavily soiled linen to contain the heaviest soil in the center of the bundle. Do not remove large amounts of soiled contents such as soil, feces or blood clots from linen by spraying with water. Use a gloved hand and toilet tissue to place contents in bedpan/toilet.
- Perform hand hygiene after handling soiled linen.

## HANDLING OF WASTE

- Most waste generated in Healthcare settings is no more hazardous than household waste
- Waste receptacles should be conveniently located and preferably, hands-free.
- Contain and dispose biomedical waste according to WRHA policies and procedures.

## HANDLING OF DISHES

- Disposable dishes and utensils are not required other than when dishwashing equipment is nonfunctioning.
- No special precautions: Routine Practices to be followed.

## HANDLING OF DECEASED BODIES

- No special requirements: Follow Routine Practices.

## VISITOR MANAGEMENT AND EDUCATION

- Visitors can transmit infections
- HCWs are responsible to teach patients and visitors basic principles, such as hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene and use of PPE
- Visitors with symptoms of infection (e.g. cough, fever, vomiting, diarrhea) should not visit unless their visit is essential. If they must visit, they should be taught and supervised regarding the precautions to be taken

