#### SUBJECT: Cleaning of Equipment

**======================================================================================================**

|  |
| --- |
| ***These Clinical Practice Guidelines are designed to aid staff and practitioners in making decisions about appropriate patient care. These guidelines should not be construed as dictating an exclusive procedure as variations in practice may be warranted based upon the needs of the individual patient, resources, and/or limitations unique to facility.*** |

**PURPOSE:**

To prevent the spread of infection among patients, staff, and visitors from contaminated equipment.

**DEFINITIONS:**

**Antiseptic**: a chemical that either inhibits the growth of microorganisms or destroys them; this term refers to agents used on living tissue.

**Cleaning**: the removal of all visible dust, soil, and any other foreign material

**Decontamination**: the process of removing disease-producing microorganisms and rendering the object safe for handling.

**Disinfection**: a process that kills or destroys nearly all disease-producing microorganisms and, with the exception of bacterial spores; disinfectants are used on inanimate objects; antiseptics are used only on living tissue.

**Sanitizing:** a process that results in a reduction in the microbial population on an inanimate object to a safe or relatively safe level.

**Sterilization:** a process by which all forms of microbial life, including bacteria, viruses, spores, and fungi, are destroyed.

**POLICY:**

**I.** Equipment will be properly cleaned, decontaminated, and disinfected according to its use.

**II.** Categories of Items for Disinfection**:**

1. Critical items - items that enter sterile tissue or the vascular system and require sterilization; i.e., implants, scalpels, needles, and other surgical instruments.
2. Semi-critical items - items which come in contact with mucous membranes or with skin that is not intact. These items require high-level disinfection; i.e., flexible endoscopes, laryngoscopes, endotracheal tubes, and other similar instruments.
3. Non-critical items - items come in contact with intact skin but not mucous membranes and sterility is not critical. These items require low to intermediate-level disinfection; i.e., stethoscopes, tabletops, floors.

**III.** Regulation and Appropriate Use of Antiseptics and Disinfectants

A. Antiseptics

1. Regulated by Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

2. Used on human tissue

B. Chemical/Sterilant

1. Regulated by FDA

2. Used on critical/semi-critical instruments

C. Hospital disinfectant

1. Regulated by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

2. Used on non-critical items

**PROCEDURE:**

1. **Cleaning and Maintenance of Equipment**
   1. All items must be thoroughly cleaned before disinfecting.
   2. All items will be cleaned and decontaminated after use and before return to Central Supply.
   3. Always follow equipment manufacturer’s directions for proper cleaning and disinfection of the item to prevent damage.
   4. **To ensure that disinfection occurs when using cleaners and disinfectants, always follow manufacturer’s instructions for proper dilution and use as given on the product label.**
   5. All personnel cleaning equipment and/or instruments must wear task-appropriate personal protective equipment (gowns, gloves, eye protection, mask).
   6. Clean and dirty equipment are kept in separate storage areas.
2. **Approved Cleaners and Disinfectants**
   1. Hospital approved disinfectant for use in all areas is: Clorox diluted 1:10 (one part Clorox to 10 parts water, mixed fresh daily). Note: Clorox is not intended to be used on any metal equipment due to corrosive action.
   2. Hospital-approved pre-mixed disinfectant solution or spray.
   3. Refer to Attachment A - Equipment Cleaning, Decontamination, and Disinfection Guidelines
   4. Refer to Attachment B for delegation of responsibility and recommended frequency of cleaning

**REVIEW RESPONSIBILITIES:**

**REFERENCES:**

Georgia DHR Rules and Regulations for Hospitals

OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard

**APPROVAL SIGNATURES:**

**Date of Origin:**

**Review/Revision Date:**

***ATTACHMENT A***

**EQUIPMENT CLEANING AND DISINFECTION GUIDELINES**

| **EQUIPMENT** | **METHOD OF DISINFECTION** |
| --- | --- |
| Stethoscope | Wipe entire instrument and ear pieces with alcohol after each patient use. Allow to air dry. |
| Cardiac Arrest Board | Remove visible soil. Clean with hospital approved disinfectant. Allow to air dry. Store on nursing unit. |
| Alaris IV Pump  PCA Pump | All IV infusion pumps must be decontaminated before returning to Central Supply. If pumps are not returned to Central Supply, clean with hospital-approved disinfectant, cover with a plastic bag to indicate clean/ready for use and store on nursing unit. |
| Commode Chair | Clean entire chair with soap and water; wipe chair with Clorox solution or other hospital-approved disinfectant and allow to air dry after each use. Cover with a plastic bag to indicate clean/ready for use. Store on nursing unit. |
| IV Poles | Remove visible soil. Disinfect with hospital-approved disinfectant. |
| Electronic Thermometers  Telemetry Units | Remove visible soil. Wipe all surfaces with alcohol/germicidal wipe and allow to air dry. |
| Ice Scoops | Exchange daily for clean scoop in a plastic bag brought up by Guest Services on breakfast cart. Previous day’s scoop placed back on cart for washing in dietary dishwasher |
| Linen Hamper Stands | Remove visible soil, disinfect with hospital-approved disinfectant. |
| Examining Tables | Remove visible soil. Wipe tables with hospital-approved disinfectant - pay close attention to rails and underside surfaces. Allow to air dry. Change all linens after each patient. |
| Wheelchairs | Remove visible soil, disinfect with hospital-approved disinfectant. |
| Refrigerators | Defrost as necessary. Wipe (using a clean cloth) inside with all-purpose cleaner to remove soil. |
| Utility Carts | Clean with all-purpose cleaner to remove visible soil. |
| Reusable Instruments  Special Procedure Trays  Vaginal Speculums | Immediately after use, **open all instruments** and place into a basin of warm water and enzymatic cleanser (follow Manufacturer’s label for proper dilution, use, etc.). Thoroughly remove all blood, tissue, etc.; rinse with tap water. Return to Central Supply. ***Never soak instruments in Clorox.*** |
| OB Instruments | All instruments used on a case are put into a large basin in the procedure room. Basin is carried to soiled utility room. All instruments are **carefully opened**, rinsed, and soaked in enzymatic cleanser (follow Manufacturer’s directions for dilution, use, etc). Instruments are then rinsed with tap water and returned in the basin to Central Supply for sterilization. ***Never soak instruments in Clorox.*** |
| K-Pads | Wipe with soap and water. Return to Central Supply. |
| Otoscope | Remove visible soil from reusable ear tips by washing in soap and water. Soak ear tips in alcohol after each use. Rinse with tap water. If ear tips are disposable, discard in regular trash. |
| Wall Suction | Discard disposable canister and all tubing in biohazardous waste. Wipe gauge with alcohol. |
| Bassinets and Mattresses | Wipe down thoroughly with quaternary ammonium solution (**do not use phenolic disinfectants in the nursery)** and allow to air dry. Make up with clean linens. Cover bassinets with plastic. Store on unit. |
| Gomco Suction  Emerson Pump  Portable Suction Unit | Discard all tubing in biohazardous waste. Rinse bottle with warm water. Soak bottle for at least 10 minutes with Clorox solution to remove visible soil. Rinse. Remove visible soil from unit, then wipe with hospital approved disinfectant. Return unit to Central Supply. |
| Omnibus Portable Suction | Discard plastic bag and tubing in biohazardous waste. Remove visible soil. Wipe machine with hospital approved disinfectant. Machine remains on the unit. |
| KDC (Nursery Warming Unit) | Remove visible soil. Wipe down with hospital-approved quaternary ammonium disinfectant and let air dry. Make up with clean linen and cover with plastic. Store on unit. |
| Laryngoscope Blades (reusable) | Soak in enzymatic cleaner to remove mucous, blood, or other body fluids. Rinse with water. Return to Central Supply for disinfection. |
| Disposable Instruments | **Do Not Clean For Reuse**- dispose of in sharps containers. |
| Sequential Compression Devices | Remove visible soil. Clean with hospital approved disinfectant and/or detergent. Allow to air dry. Cover with a plastic bag to indicate clean/ready for use. Avoid excess fluid. The Controller should be wiped clean with a clean, dry cloth afterward. Do not immerse in water. Do not use products containing ammonium chloride or acetone as those chemicals will degrade the integrity of the case. |
| Glucometer | Acceptable cleaning ingredients include: soap/water, 70% Isopropyl Alcohol, 1:10 dilution of sodium hypochlorite ammonium chloride (quarternary ammonium chloride), or 1:10 dilution of bleach. Wipe and dry the meter and ensure that no cleaning solution is seen in the connector where the meter is docked |

***ATTACHMENT B***

**DELEGATION OF CLEANING FREQUENCY/STAFF RESPONSIBLE**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **EQUIPMENT** | **STAFF RESPONSIBLE** | **FREQUENCY** |
| Sequential Compression Devices (SCD) | EVS | After patient use and as needed |
| IV Pumps/Poles | EVS | After patient use and as needed |
| Bedside Commode | EVS | After patient use and as needed |
| Bassinets | EVS | After patient use and as needed |
| Telemetry Units | Nursing | After patient use and as needed |
| Monitors | Nursing | After patient use and as needed |
| CPM | Physical Therapy | After patient use and as needed |
| Bili-Lights | Nursing | After patient use and as needed |
| Blood pressure cuff/machines | Nursing | Weekly and as needed |