**PURPOSE:**

To ensure that patients and siblings have access to clean and safe play equipment, toys and other supplies within patient care areas; To prevent the spread of infectious organisms from one patient to another; To ensure proper procedures for cleaning and disinfecting toys and equipment; To consistently maintain infection control practices to be followed by Child Life staff, students, interns and volunteers, and other designated persons (i.e. Care Partners, EVS, or others depending on specific unit); To ensure that the same cleaning procedures are followed with donated items

**PROCEDURES:**

**Acceptance and General Care of Toys and Equipment**

1. All toys and equipment provided for patient use must be appropriate for the child's developmental age (information is available through the Child Life and Volunteer program)
2. Toys will be evaluated for safety to minimize risk of sharp objects, brittle plastic, glass items, toxic items, pinching or choking hazards, and other safety concerns by all staff having patient care contact (ex. recalls). Used stuffed animals will not be accepted.
3. Toys brought from home by a patient must not be shared with other patients.
4. All patient care staff will screen toys for thematic content to avoid inappropriate content for the pediatric population (i.e. sexually provocative toys, war/weapon toys, violence, obscene language, movie ratings, etc.).
5. Toys provided for patient use will be made of materials that can be easily sanitized (i.e. plastic, rubber, latex, vinyl, treated woods and metals). Plush toys (i.e. stuffed animals) are not recommended for donation to patients; any exceptions must be approved by the Infection Prevention & Control team. In addition, all donated toys must be new and in good condition.
   1. Battery operated and electrical toys that cannot be immersed should be avoided.
6. Toy cleaning is the responsibility of all staff having patient care contact.
7. The Child Life staff will provide training and supervision for toy cleaning procedures to Child Life students, interns, volunteers and Child Life staff.
8. Toy cleaning in-services, training and guidelines are available to hospital staff through the Child Life program.
9. Toys and books used within the playrooms will be cleaned at the end of each playroom session. Toys and books in ambulatory clinic waiting rooms will be single patient use only or disinfected in between patient use per clinic protocol. Wall and floor-mounted toys in ambulatory clinic waiting rooms that involve patient direct contact will not be permitted.
10. General hand washing practices will be followed according to established hospital infection prevention and control policies (refer to IC Policy – 212.0).
11. The Infection Prevention and Control staff are available for consultation as needed.
12. During infectious disease outbreaks and pandemics, any shared items in waiting rooms (toys, books, magazines) should be removed unless they are handsfree or do not encourage physical contact.

**Cleaning**

Only hospital-approved disinfectant will be used for cleaning toys (contact time per manufacturers recommendations)

1. For immersible toys or accessories, use of a dishwasher with standard detergent using a full wash and dry cycle is acceptable. See IC -224.2 for more details.
2. For other toys or accessories, toys will be properly wiped with disinfectant and toys that may possibly be mouthed will be rinsed thoroughly with water after each use. Toys should not be transferred between patients without proper cleaning.
3. Toys that are dropped on the floor, found on tabletops, etc. should be cleaned before use by patients
4. Toys with porous surfaces (e.g. stuffed animals) that cannot be effectively cleaned must be kept by the child and taken home upon discharge or discarded.

**Isolation Rooms**

1. All toys and equipment provided to patients in isolation must be made of materials that can be easily sanitized (i.e. plastic, rubber, latex, vinyl, treated woods and metals).
2. Toys must remain in isolation rooms until proper disinfecting is performed and being returned to the playrooms or waiting rooms. Toys will be disinfected with hospital-approved disinfectant after use in an isolation room and rinsed thoroughly. For patients in Contact+ or Combined-Droplet + Precautions, bleach solution should be used as the disinfectant for all toys used by these patients.
3. If the patient is transferred to another room, the toys provided at the bedside must remain with the patient or be removed for proper cleaning then returned to playroom or waiting room. If toys with porous surfaces (e.g. stuffed animals, books) that cannot be effectively cleaned are given to children in isolation, these toys must be kept by the child and taken home upon discharge or discarded.
4. At discharge or transfer to another unit, toys must be placed in the soiled toy area. Each unit will have a specified area and procedure for the return of soiled toys (i.e. specified bags, closed bins, etc.)

**Electronic Game Units**

1. Electronic Game Units will be cleaned between each use when taken to patient rooms.
2. Electronic Game Units in public areas (i.e. waiting rooms) will be cleaned daily.
3. The units will be unplugged prior to cleaning to prevent risk of electrical shock.
4. Cleaning of Electronic Game Units is the responsibility of the staff person initiating its use in patient's room.

**Wagon / Riding Toys**

1. The staff person initiating use of wagons or riding toys is responsible for ensuring its cleanliness before and after its use.
2. Linens shall be placed in wagons prior to patient use for comfort and infection control measures.
3. Linens used in wagons will be placed in soiled linen bins following each use by patients
4. Equipment must be evaluated for hazards on a regular basis

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. [IC – 224.1 Toy Donation](https://secure.compliance360.com/ext/n7wO1lpGaYx4Y-Fd5tqimQ==)
2. [IC – 224.2 Playroom and OTPT Dishwasher Maintenance](https://secure.compliance360.com/ext/8d5u5N8lOUhTP1XDY-iLhQ==)

**REFERENCES:**

1. Title 22, DHS Standards 1997
2. APIC text of Infection Control and Epidemiology, Chapter 42: Pediatrics; Chapter 31 Cleaning and Disinfection, 2016.
3. [IC – 212.0 Hand Hygiene](https://secure.compliance360.com/ext/JV1CGYJFKb_ghMHC0mnqSw==)

**POLICY OWNER:**

*Director, Infection Prevention and Control*