

# Cleaning and Disinfection of Commodes

## STANDARDS:

1. Commodes shared between patients/residents will be **cleaned, disinfected and identified with a "clean" sign before they are presented to patients/residents for use.**
2. Commodes that are assigned for single patient/resident use will be cleaned and disinfected when soiled and routinely, on a daily basis.

## Cleaning, Disinfection and Identification Process for Commodes:

1. **Commodes Shared between patients/residents:** If a patient no longer requires the commode, Housekeeping staff will thoroughly clean all surfaces of the commode, either in the patient/resident room or in the soiled service room and attach a "clean" sign. When the cleaning and disinfection is completed the commode will be taken to the **clean equipment storage room/area**, or if the unit does not have a clean equipment storage room, the commode may be stored in the soiled utility room in an area designated for cleaned equipment as far as possible from the soiled equipment.
2. **Commodes Assigned to a patient/resident:** Commodes that are assigned to a patient/resident will be cleaned and disinfected daily by the unit Housekeeping staff during daily room cleaning. Cleaning will include the frame, back, hand rests, and seat of the commode.
3. **Soiled collection basins:** Unit staff is responsible to remove soiled collection basins from the commode, place the basin and contents into the unit's washer disinfectant for cleaning and disinfection, and replace a cleaned and disinfected catch basin into the commode. Commode collection basins must be visibly clean before they are returned to the commode.
4. **Following patient use:** In addition to the daily cleaning by the Housekeeping staff, after the patient/resident has used the commode and the collection basin is disinfected, the unit staff should inspect the commode frame, seat, back and hand rests for visible soiling and ensure that all visible soiling is cleaned and disinfected by:
  - a. Using gloves and disinfectant wipes to spot clean soiled areas of the commode.
  - b. Returning the soiled commode to the dirty service area and alerting the Housekeeping staff for cleaning and disinfection.

## **Note: Commode cleaning priority:**

Unit housekeeping staff will ensure the availability of cleaned commodes for patient use. In the event that all commodes on the patient care unit are soiled and a clean commode is required for urgent

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patient use, this urgent situation will be communicated to the housekeeping call centre and commode cleaning for that unit will become a priority.

### Related IPAC Policies

Contact Precautions

Patient /Resident Care Equipment and Articles;

[http://intranet.phc.ca/programs\\_services/infection\\_control/infection\\_control\\_manual/cleaning\\_disinfection/page\\_26062.htm](http://intranet.phc.ca/programs_services/infection_control/infection_control_manual/cleaning_disinfection/page_26062.htm)

Risk Factors for Transmission, Health Canada Table;

[http://intranet.phc.ca/programs\\_services/infection\\_control/docs/binary\\_71429.pdf](http://intranet.phc.ca/programs_services/infection_control/docs/binary_71429.pdf)

### References

[PHAC. Routine practices and additional precautions for preventing the transmission of infection in health care settings. 2012.](#)

Provincial Infection Control Network of British Columbia (PICNet). Antibiotic Resistant Organisms Guidelines. November 2008.

US Centers of Disease Control (CDC). Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infections Agent in Healthcare Settings. 2007.

Ontario Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC). Best Practices For Cleaning Disinfection and Sterilization in All Health Care Settings. March 2006.

**Date Created:** August 2010

**Revised:** July 22, 2013