

Environmental Cleaning and Linen - Infection Control

Site Applicability

All PHC Acute and Long Term Care Sites.

Practice Level

Basic: All direct and indirect care staff

Standard

Environmental Cleaning

Surfaces that are likely to be touched and/or used frequently should be cleaned and disinfected on a regular schedule. This includes surfaces that are in close proximity to the patient/resident (e.g. bedrails, over bed table, call bell) and frequently touched surfaces in the environment such as door knobs and surfaces in the patient/resident bathroom.

Infection Prevention and Control will work with Environmental Services to identify rooms that require more frequent/enhanced cleaning or cleaning with specific products (e.g., bleach cleaning for patients/residents on Contact Plus Precautions).

Patient/resident care areas should be kept tidy with horizontal surfaces free from clutter so as to allow for adequate cleaning.

Furniture that cannot be wiped or cleaned will not be used in patient/resident rooms and lounges.

Reusable non-critical equipment that has been in direct contact with the patient/resident will be reprocessed with [cleaning and low-level disinfection](#) before use with another patient/resident.

Linen

Clean linen should be transported and stored in a manner that prevents its contamination.

Bed linen should be changed regularly and when soiled. In ambulatory care, linens should be changed between every patient treatment/procedure.

Soiled linen should be handled in the same way for all patients/residents without regard to their infection status. It should be placed in a no-touch receptacle at the point-of-use (i.e., laundry hamper in patient/resident room) that should not be overfilled. Use a [point of care risk assessment](#) to determine if [personal protective equipment](#) is needed when handling soiled linen.

Procedure:

- Soiled linen should be handled with a minimum of agitation to avoid contamination of air, surfaces and person.
- Heavily soiled linen should be rolled/folded to contain soil in the centre of the bundle.
- Large amounts of solid soil should be removed by a gloved hand and toilet tissues and should be placed in a bedpan or toilet for flushing. Do not remove excrement by spraying with water.
- Hand hygiene should be performed after handling soiled linen.

Related Documents

- [B-00-07-13035](#) - Low Level Cleaning and Disinfection
- [B-00-07-13088](#) - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - Infection Control
- [B-00-07-13081](#) - Point of Care Risk Assessment - IPAC Best Practice Guideline
- [B-00-07-13045](#) - Routine Practices - Infection Control

References

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022). 2007 Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdf/guidelines/isolation-guidelines-H.pdf>
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- Provincial Infection Control Network of British Columbia. (2016). British Columbia Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning for Prevention and Control of Infections in All Healthcare Settings and Programs. Retrieved from <https://www.picnet.ca/wp-content/uploads/British-Columbia-Best-Practices-for-Environmental-Cleaning-for-Prevention-and-Control-of-Infections-in-All-Healthcare-Settings-and-Programs.pdf>
- Public Health Agency of Canada. (2017). Routine Practices and Additional Precautions for Preventing the Transmission of Infection in Healthcare Settings. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/routine-practices-precautions-healthcare-associated-infections.html>



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