

DECONTAMINATION POLICY (CLEANING AND DISINFECTION OF EQUIPMENT, SURFACES, ENVIRONMENT AND SKIN)

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1. INTRODUCTION

All medical devices, equipment, and the environment in healthcare settings may become contaminated with micro-organisms and thus can present a risk to patients, as well as to those subsequently handling or using equipment. Safe and effective decontamination of all re-useable equipment between uses is an essential part of routine infection prevention and control practice. Inadequate decontamination has been responsible for outbreaks of infection in healthcare establishments. Staff have a duty to ensure that all equipment they use in whatever setting is clean when used and effectively decontaminated between patients/clients.

Similarly skin may also be contaminated with micro-organisms and can develop into a source of infection due to flora transfer both to the patient and others. It is therefore essential to practice and encourage standard principles of infection control (including hand hygiene) at all times and with all patients.

Prior to purchasing equipment staff must ensure that the item can be decontaminated effectively and that the company supplying the equipment offers clear instructions on suitable cleaning, disinfection and sterilization methods. If advice is needed from the Infection Prevention and Control Team, please contact prior to purchasing equipment.

In order to ensure safe systems of work and to prevent transmission of infection, it is essential that decontamination of equipment and the environment is carried out. This is in accordance with the requirements of the Health and Social Care Act 2008.

2. PURPOSE

This policy ensures best practice is met and providers are expected to implement wherever practicable risk assessments must be submitted to the decontamination lead for instances when this policy is not adhered to.

3. SCOPE

This document applies to all staff employed by East Coast Community Healthcare CIC (ECCH).

4. DEFINITIONS

The following definitions are intended to provide a brief explanation of the various terms used within this policy.

Term	Definition
Policy	A policy is a formal written statement detailing an enforceable set of principles or rules. Policies set the boundaries within which we operate. They also reflect the philosophy of our organisation.
Decontamination	Decontamination is a process that removes or destroys contamination and thereby prevents micro-organisms or other contaminants reaching a susceptible site in sufficient numbers to initiate infection or any other harmful response.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

- **ECCH Employees** – Are responsible for the implementation of this policy and following the requirements of the policy.
- **Chief Executive of ECCH** – Overall responsibility for the enforcement of this policy lies with the Chief Executive of ECCH
- **ECCH Managers** – Are to ensure that staff are aware of this policy, have a suitable and adequate supply of cleaning and disinfection products appropriate to the care environment and use appropriate dilutions effectively and safely and compatible with the manufacturers decontamination guidance. It is the responsibility of managers to ensure that no domestic grade cleaning products are bought or used by staff in the healthcare environment.
- **Infection Prevention & Control Team** – It is the responsibility of the Infection Prevention and Control Team to ensure this policy is reviewed and amended at the review date or prior to this following new developments in decontamination research.
- **ECCH Board** - The Board has collective responsibility for ensuring assurance that appropriate and effective policies are in place to minimise the risks of health care associated infections.

6. POLICY STATEMENT

This policy ensures best practice is met and providers are expected to implement wherever practicable risk assessments must be submitted to the decontamination lead for instances when this policy is not adhered to.

7. GUIDANCE ON THE USE OF HEALTH CARE DEVICES

Single use

The medical device is intended to be used once on an individual patient during a single procedure and then discarded. It is not intended to be re-processed or re-used on another patient. The re-use of single-use medical devices can affect their safety, performance and effectiveness, exposing patients and staff to unnecessary risk. Current Health Service Circulars (HSC's) and MDA guidance clearly state that medical devices designated for single-use must never be re-used.

A European standard symbol is used on packaging for all medical devices intended for single-use only. All staff involved in the decontamination process should be aware of and understand this symbol and its meaning.

Single Patient use

The medical device can be used more than once on one patient only. The device may need to be decontaminated between each use.

Re-usable

The medical device can be used for repeated episodes on different patients but requires appropriate decontamination between each use.

Further examples of symbols commonly used on healthcare devices and their packaging.

These are explained in more detail in the British and European Standard BS EN 980: 1997 [*Graphical symbols for use in the labelling of medical devices*](#)

If further clarification is required, please refer to the product instructions or user manual.



Appendix 1 below by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is a useful source of relevant information and explanation.

8. PROCEDURE

Decontamination is a process that removes or destroys contamination and thereby prevents micro-organisms or other contaminants reaching a susceptible site in sufficient numbers to initiate infection or any other harmful response.

It includes the processes of:

- Cleaning
- Disinfection
- Sterilisation

Note: Few methods of sterilisation or disinfection in routine use are effective in deactivating prions such as the causative agents of Crutzfield Jakob disease (CJD), scrapie, or Bourne Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), preferably by an automated and validated process of instruments is therefore vital to limit transmission of these agents.

8.1 Cleaning

Cleaning is a process that physically removes extraneous matter from devices but does not destroy all micro-organisms.

8.1.1 Manual Cleaning

This can be achieved manually with detergent and hot water; prepared in clean container and with the use of a disposable cloth. Drying is essential to prevent any remaining bacteria from multiplying.

8.1.2 Mechanical cleaning (these are not currently by used in ECCH)

There are two main types of mechanical cleaning:-

- An Instrument Washing Machine will wash and dry devices. This machine should be used strictly to manufacturer's instructions.
- The preferred method of mechanical cleaning is by Ultrasonic apparatus. This dislodges organic and other matter from surfaces.

8.2 Disinfection

Disinfection is the removal or destruction of micro-organisms but not necessarily bacterial spores and/or some viruses. The ECCHs standard of cleaning for most items using Clinell wipes – see appendix

- Disinfection does not sterilise.
- Disinfection of medical devices must be carried out by properly trained and competent staff.
- Disinfection should be carried out to a written procedure, based on a risk assessment and in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
- Disinfection can be achieved by heat or by chemical means and must always be preceded by cleaning.
- Incorrect concentrations may render a disinfectant ineffective.

8.3 Sterilisation

Sterilisation is a process used to render objects free from viable micro-organisms including bacterial spores and viruses.

8.4 Hand hygiene sinks

Dedicated hand hygiene sinks must never be used for any other purpose other than hand hygiene: this includes cleaning equipment or emptying/cleaning patient wash bowls.

Choosing the appropriate method of decontamination

Risk	Indication	Recommendation
High	Items that penetrate skin / mucous membranes or enter sterile body areas.	Cleaning followed by Sterilisation
Medium	Items in contact with intact mucous membranes, or contaminated with blood / body fluids	Cleaning followed by Disinfection (Except for instruments used in the vagina or cervix, e.g. speculae which must be sterilised between each use).
Low	Items in contact with intact skin or not in direct patient contact.	Cleaning

Chlorine releasing agent dilution instructions	Tablet size	0.5g tablets	1.7g tablets	2.5g tablets	5g tablets
Blood spillage (10,000ppm)	Number of tablets	18	10	7	4
	Amount of water in litres	0.5	1	1	1
General clinical environment (1,000ppm)	Number of tablets	4	1	1	1
	Amount of water in litres	1	1	1.5	3

It is essential that fresh batches of the chlorine releasing solutions are made up as required. Made up solutions must be discarded after 24 hours.

Inpatient areas must use So Clor plus for high level cleaning to kill bacteria, viruses and spores, instructions on the label are to be followed. If other brands are used a careful check of the instructions must be made

It is vital that where possible the area is well ventilated when using this product, and PPE is worn when mixing as well as using chlorine releasing products COLD WATER dilution will minimize the odour.

Environmental cleaning following patient discharge or bed movement

1. Patient bed areas (to include beds, table, locker, chair and all other equipment used in that area e.g. drip stands) must be cleaned thoroughly with hot water and detergent following discharge before next patient can be admitted into the vacated bed space.
2. Any contamination of the walls should be cleaned immediately therefore terminal wall washing is not required.
3. Areas occupied by patients with a known infection should be cleaned using hot water and detergent then disinfected using a chlorine releasing agent.
3. The Infection Prevention and Control team may be contacted for further advice regarding curtain changes etc.

Cleaning of skin

Procedure	Product
Skin Hand Washing	- For normal hand washing liquid soap is adequate. - Patients at bed side must be offered hand wipes after using the commode and before meals if unable to access soap and water
Skin Hand rubs	Hand sanitiser should be used if hands visibly clean and no contact with patient suffering from diarrhoea. This gel should be available at the point of use and be an approved brand.
Skin Injection Sites Venepuncture Cannulation site	- Clean with 70% isopropyl alcohol e.g. steret / mediswab prior to injection unless otherwise contra-indicated by the manufacturers. - Swab the intended site with a swab containing 70% alcohol and allow to dry. - Swab the intended site with a swab containing 70% isopropyl and 2% chlorhexidine gluconate and allow to dry see guidelines in Saving Lives. <u>IT IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO USE AN INJECTION SWAB.</u> VIP scoring must be documented.
Wound Cleaning	- Wounds with minimal to moderate discharge can be cleaned with warm normal saline 0.9% sterile solution. - Tap water of drinking quality can be used to irrigate wounds and to soak leg ulcers prior to dressings. - Surgical/acute wounds must be cleaned with a sterile solution.

Cleaning/Disinfection Chart A – Z

Re-usable medical equipment that has been cleaned or disinfected should be labelled, e.g., with 'I am clean' indicator tape or label giving details of the date of cleaning and signed by the person who performed the decontamination.

Item	Recommended Method	Comments
Acupuncture needles	Single use	Discard into sharps container conforming to British or United Nations current standards
Airways	Single use	
Ambu-bag / re-breathing bags	Dispose of filter and mask between uses and use disposable ambu-bags	
Ampoules	No preparation required	Discard into sharps container conforming to British or United Nations current standards
Auroscopes	Detachable earpieces single use item	

Item	Recommended Method	Comments
Baby changing mats	Cover with disposable paper roll and change between each baby. Clean with Clinell disinfectant wipes at the end of the session. If contaminated with body fluids mop up excess soiling with paper towels, clean as above then wipe with a chlorine releasing agent	If the plastic cover becomes torn or damaged the mat must be discarded
Baby Scales	Line with disposable paper roll and change this between each baby. Clean with Clinell disinfectant wipes at the end of each session. If contaminated with body fluids mop up excess soiling with paper towels, clean as above then wipe a chlorine releasing agent	
Baths, bath hoists and seats, wash basins, shower chairs and seats	Clean with hot water and detergent or Clinell disinfectant wipe after each patient	
Baby feeding bottles and teats.	Baby feeding equipment must be disinfected between use by either a cold sterilising unit or a steam steriliser following manufacturers guidelines.	Wherever possible encourage parents to bring in pre-made up bottles that once used are rinsed and returned to the parent for cleaning at home.
Bed Cradles	In hospital setting Clean with Clinell disinfectant wipes. In patients own homes: It is the user's responsibility to keep equipment dust free. If visibly soiled please clean with warm water and detergent (washing up liquid) When no longer required these should be returned to central equipment stores for cleaning prior to re-issue	In hospital setting Following use / discharge of a patients with a known infection or when contaminated with blood or body fluids clean with detergent and water followed by disinfection using a chlorine releasing agent dilute as per instructions
Bed frames Bed sides	In Hospital setting: Clean with Clinell disinfectant wipes In patients own homes: It is the user's responsibility to keep equipment dust free. If visibly soiled please clean with warm water and detergent (washing up liquid). When no longer required these should be returned to central equipment stores for cleaning prior to re-issue	In hospital setting Following use / discharge of a patient with a known infection or when contaminated with blood or body fluids clean with detergent and water followed by disinfection using a chlorine releasing agent
Bedside tables	In Hospital setting Clean with Clinell disinfectant wipes If contaminated with blood or body fluids clean with detergent and water followed by disinfection using a chlorine releasing agent (for dilution see page 9) and dry thoroughly. In patients own homes It is the user's responsibility to keep equipment dust free. If visibly soiled please clean with warm water and detergent (washing up liquid) When no longer required these should be returned to central equipment stores for cleaning prior to re-issue	
Bed pans	Disposable – disposed of into macerator. In the event of machine failure inform works department immediately and dispose of bedpan contents / urinal into lavatory or sluice then place bedpan / urinal into clinical waste bag for disposal	Inserts must be used in all cases
Bed pans	In patients own homes	

Item	Recommended Method	Comments
	Empty contents down the lavatory, wash with detergent and hot water or Clinell disinfectant wipes and dry. Store to keep dust free. When no longer required these should be returned to central equipment stores for cleaning prior to re-issue	When undertaking these procedures appropriate personal protective equipment must be worn
Bedpan holders / slipper pan holders	Clean with Clinell disinfectant wipes. If visibly contaminated with blood or body fluids clean with detergent and water followed by disinfection using a chlorine releasing agent	These items must be replaced if showing signs of degradation
Blinds horizontal and vertical	Keep dust free – clean as per manufacturer's instructions All new blinds must be vertical and be able to withstand a hypochlorite clean	Contact Infection Prevention and Control if considering purchasing blinds or replacing existing blinds
Blood glucose monitoring	Inpatient wards use Clinell disinfectant wipes after every use Sharps containers must be taken to the point of use and items placed immediately into the container post use	The lancet containing the sharps should be discarded into sharps container conforming to British or United Nations current standards
Blood pressure sphygmomanometer and cuff	Clean with Clinell disinfectant wipes after each pat use or sooner if visibly contaminated. If unable to clean following contamination discard. Blood pressure cuff should not be placed next to broken skin if this unavoidable please contact infection prevention and control. For Doppler Cuffs please follow manufacturer's instructions.	Ideally patients in isolation should have their own blood pressure cuff. When purchasing new products avoid cloth where possible to improve the ability to clean the equipment
Breast pumps	Only electric breast pumps should be loaned - a supply of disposable milk collection sets should also be provided. Advice to mother is that the pump is cleaned with detergent and hot water then dry thoroughly daily. Advice to staff on return of pump clean as per manufacturers instructions Any demonstration items must be made of a material that can be wiped	Hand breast pumps should not be loaned out as no disposable milk collection sets are available
Buckets	Wash with hot water and detergent, rinse and store dry. Following contact with blood or body fluids clean with detergent and water followed by disinfection using a chlorine releasing agent and dry thoroughly	
Buckets for Leg Ulcers	Line with a plastic bag (with only one opening and no holes). After each use dispose of the bag, clean the bucket with hot water and detergent, and rinse and dry thoroughly. If plastic bag lining splits clean with detergent and water followed by disinfection using a chlorine releasing agent and dry thoroughly	Store clean and dry
Car seats	Follow manufacturers guidance replace when visibly contaminated with blood or body fluids.	
Carpets	Vacuum daily. Vacuum cleaners need to comply with standards set in BS5415. Carpets in clinical area require a 6 monthly carpet shampoo. Clean spills immediately. The area should be immediately shampooed.	<u>CARPETS ARE NOT RECOMMENDED FOR CLINICAL AREAS</u> as they are impractical to clean. Alternative types of flooring must be considered when replacing
Catheter bag holders	In Hospital settings Clean with Clinell disinfectant wipes between patients and at least weekly. If contaminated with blood or body fluids	If using metal plastic coated catheter stands the plastic should be intact.

Item	Recommended Method	Comments
	immediately clean with detergent and water followed by disinfection using a chlorine releasing agent and dry thoroughly In patients own homes: It is the user's responsibility to keep equipment dust free. If visibly soiled please clean with warm water and detergent (washing up liquid) When no longer required these should be returned to central equipment stores for cleaning prior to re-issue	
Cervical diaphragms and caps (practice caps)	Single patient use only	
Cleaning equipment: 1. Wet mops 2. Mop buckets	Disposable items Clean with hot water and detergent after each use and dry thoroughly- store inverted.	
Chairs	At hospital sites and health centres Clean with detergent and hot water, rinse or use and dry thoroughly, or Clinell disinfectant wipes daily, if soiled or if patient discharged or at the end of each clinic. In patients own homes: It is the users responsibility to keep equipment dust free. If visibly soiled please clean with warm water and detergent (washing up liquid). When no longer required these should be returned to central equipment stores for cleaning prior to re-issue.	Fabric chairs are unsuitable for clinical areas as they are impractical to clean. All chairs must be made of a fire retardant material
Combs	Patients must have their own individual comb. When visibly soiled, clean with hot water and detergent and dry thoroughly.	
Commodes	At Hospital sites Clean all surfaces with Clinell disinfectant wipes thoroughly between each use. If contaminated with blood or body fluids clean with detergent and water followed by disinfection using a chlorine releasing agent and dry* thoroughly. During an outbreak left to dry naturally*. In patients own homes: It is the responsibility of the user's to ensure the commode pot is emptied into a lavatory then rinsed and dried thoroughly. The pot should be stored in the commode. It is the user's responsibility to keep equipment dust free. If visibly soiled please clean with warm water and detergent (washing up liquid) When no longer required these should be returned to central equipment stores for cleaning prior to re-issue.	Disassemble and clean commode thoroughly at least daily. At the end of each shift is recommended. A record of cleaning must be maintained. If used for patient suffering from diarrhoea disinfect commode following cleaning with 1000ppm chlorine releasing agent.
Computers and other IT equipment in clinical areas	Keep dust free. If possible cover keyboard with plastic cover, the keyboard should be wiped with Clinell disinfectant wipes. It is expected that individual staff / clinical staff take responsibility for the cleaning of this equipment.	Decontaminate hands after touching the keyboard either by washing or use of sanitising gel. Ensure that electrical supply is turned off before cleaning

Item	Recommended Method	Comments
		do not use large amounts of water.
Cold / hot pad	Must have a plastic covering to aid cleaning after each use with hot water and detergent or detergent wipes then dry thoroughly.	Do not store in drug or food fridge
Community equipment bags including those used by District Nurses	Clean by wiping over the bag with damp cloth containing detergent and water / detergent wipe. This should be undertaken at least weekly.	If bag machine washable follow manufacturers instructions regarding temperatures and wash weekly.
Couches (examination)	Clean with Clinell disinfectant wipes between patients and at weekly intervals. Disposable paper sheeting should be used to cover the examination couches following a risk assessment. This covering should be single use only and changed between patients.	If the plastic cover becomes torn or damaged the couch should be re-upholstered or replaced. Alcohol wipes should not be used to clean this equipment.
Crockery, cutlery	Machine wash. Rinse temp above 80C	
Curtains	Routine change every six months +immediately if contaminated.	Infection Prevention and Control team may request additional cleaning for some specific infections.
Damp dusting	Detergent and hot water using appropriate colour coded cloth.	
Denture pots	Patients must have their own named denture pot. These must remain single patient use. Discard after patient discharge.	
Drip stands	At Hospital sites Clean with Clinell disinfectant wipes between patient use, if soiled and at least weekly. If contaminated with blood or body fluids clean with detergent and water followed by disinfection using a chlorine releasing agent and dry thoroughly. In patients own homes It is the user's responsibility to keep equipment dust free. If visibly soiled please clean with warm water and detergent (washing up liquid) and dry thoroughly.	Store clean and dry and keep dust free when not in use.
Dressing trolleys	Wash entire trolley with hot water and detergent or use Clinell disinfectant wipes before and after use. If contaminated with blood or body fluids clean with detergent and water followed by disinfection using a chlorine releasing agent and dry thoroughly.	
Drainage and suction jars: 1. Disposable vacuum containers 2. Suction jars 3. Under-water seal bottles	Use Vernagel gelling granules. Place in double orange bag for incineration. Where possible use disposable. Non disposable i.e. glass and re-useable empty down sluice, clean with hot detergent and water and disinfect bottle in 10,000ppm chlorine releasing agent then dry thoroughly. Use disposable	Store clean and dry and keep dust free when not in use For non disposable suction jars used for one individual patient the contents of the jar should be emptied into a lavatory if a sluice is not available. Then clean the jar with detergent and hot water. It will require

Item	Recommended Method	Comments
		disinfection before use on another patient.
Ear syringing equipment	Propulse Each day before use, the propulse must be disinfected using a chlorine based product to strength 1,000ppm. Fill tank with solution, run the machine to allow the solution to fill the pump and flexible tubing. Leave to stand for 10 minutes. Empty the tank, then rinse the system through with tap water before use At the end of the day disinfect as above. Rinse the machine through with running sterile water and dry thoroughly. Jet tip Applicators Single use disposable to be used. Jobson Horne Probe Return to appropriate sterile services. Speculum for Otoscope Disposable single use item. Nootes Ear Tank Return to appropriate sterile services.	
ECG Equipment (machine and leads)	Wipe with a dilute detergent solution or clean with Clinell disinfectant wipes at least weekly and if soiled.	Electrodes must be disposable. Store clean and dry and keep dust free when not in use.
Eye testing glasses and vision eye patches	Wipe with Clinell disinfectant wipes between patients and store clean and dry.	Eye patches should be made of a wipeable material.
Endotracheal tubes	Single use only.	
Enteral feeding equipment.	Follow manufactures instructions for each product. At hospital sites The pump must be kept clean and dust free, wipe daily with detergent and water / Clinell disinfectant wipes In patients own homes It is the user's responsibility to keep equipment dust free. If visibly soiled please clean with warm water and detergent (washing up liquid).	When no longer required these should be returned to central equipment stores for cleaning prior to re-issue
Examination couches		Please see couches
Examination lamps	Wipe with Clinell disinfectant wipes.	Ensure that electrical supply is turned off before cleaning.
Enuresis mats	Single patient uses –Clinell disinfectant wipes or as manufacturer's instructions.	
Enuresis Alarms	As per manufacturers instructions.	
Fans- not permitted in clinical areas	Need to be kept dust free. The outside and guard can be cleaned with Clinell disinfectant wipes when not operating. To clean the blades fan must first be dismantled by an appropriately trained person.	When purchasing new or replacing existing fans please contact Infection Prevention and Control for advice.
Floors (wet)	Should be cleaned with a detergent solution. Disinfection is not normally required.	Vacuum cleaners need to comply with standards set in BS5415.
Floors (dry)	Should be vacuum cleaned or with a dust- attracting dry mop.	
Flower Vases	Wash with hot water and detergent and dry thoroughly. When in use water must be changed daily.	Store clean and dry and keep dust free when not in use. NOT IN THE SLUICE.

Item	Recommended Method	Comments
Foam Wedges	At hospital sites Clean on patient discharge or when visibly soiled. Clean with Clinell disinfectant wipes. If contaminated with blood or body fluids clean with detergent and water followed by disinfection using a chlorine releasing agent. In patients own homes: It is the user's responsibility to keep equipment dust free. If visibly soiled please clean with warm water and detergent (washing up liquid) When no longer required these should be returned to central equipment stores for cleaning prior to re-issue.	Use only if covered with a plastic waterproof cover. If a hole appears the wedge must be discarded.
Glucometer	Clean machine with Clinell disinfectant wipes after every patient unless contaminated with blood or body fluids then clean immediately. Test strips – single use only.	
Gym Equipment (used by physio)	Clean all equipment with either hot water and detergent or Clinell disinfectant wipes between patient uses. If contaminated with blood or body fluids clean with detergent and water followed by disinfection using a chlorine releasing agent (for dilution see page 8).	
Hair Brushes	Single patient use.	
Height stick	Clean using Clinell disinfectant wipes after use at the end of each session and store clean.	
Hoists	At Hospital sites / Clinics Clean between each patient use Clinell disinfectant wipes. Hoists are also subject to a pre-planned maintenance work through the works department. In patients own homes: It is the user's responsibility to keep equipment dust free. If visibly soiled please clean with warm water and detergent (washing up liquid) Hoists are subject to a maintenance programme through central equipment stores. When no longer required these should be returned to central equipment stores for cleaning prior to re-issue.	
Hoist slings and slide sheets (fabric)	Hoist slings – At hospital sites Patients must have either their own re-useable hoist sling or disposable sling until discharge from hospital. On discharge it should be sent for laundered or disposal. Hoist slings – In patients own homes Patients must have their own hoist sling. When no longer required these should be returned to central equipment stores for cleaning prior to re-issue Sliding sheets – At hospital sites Patients must have their own sliding sheet if required, which should be laundered on discharge from hospital. Sliding sheets – In patients own homes Patients should have their own sliding sheet. When no longer required these should be returned to central equipment stores for cleaning prior to re-issue.	Any soiling of fabric items must be laundered immediately and must not be washed by hand in the department. All hoist slings are subject to maintenance programme either through works department or central equipment stores.
Infusion pumps	At Hospital sites The pump must be kept clean and dust free, wipe daily with Clinell disinfectant wipes. If contaminated with blood or body fluids clean with detergent and water followed by disinfection using a chlorine releasing agent and dry thoroughly. In patients own homes	Store clean and dry and keep dust free when not in use.

Item	Recommended Method	Comments
	It remains the responsibility of the nursing staff setting up the infusion pump – as at hospital sites.	
Instruments e.g. forceps, clip removers	Single use items must be disposed of after use. Reusable items to be returned to the sterile services department.	
Instrument transport container (dental and podiatry)	Once emptied the container can be placed through a washer disinfectant if available. If washer disinfectant not available clean with detergent and water followed by disinfection using a chlorine releasing agent and dry thoroughly.	
Interferential pads	Refer to manufacturer's guidance.	
Jugs (non-sterile procedures i.e. those used measure urine)	Disposable urinals used for emptying catheter bags. Jugs used for the measurement of urine are single use disposable and must not be left in the sluice.	
Kidney Dishes	Disposable single use. Discard into macerator if available; if not available dispose of empty receptacle in orange clinical waste bag.	Kidney dishes should not be used as vomit bowls.
Laryngoscopes	Blades: disposable single use Handles: wipe with hot water and detergent/ Clinell disinfectant wipes. If contaminated with blood or body fluids clean with detergent and hot water followed by disinfection using a chlorine releasing agent and dry thoroughly.	
Lavatories (including raised lavatory seats)	At Hospital sites Cleaning should be undertaken daily and when soiled. Clean both sides of the seat with detergent and hot water. If patients using facilities suffering from diarrhoea clean with detergent and water followed by disinfection using a chlorine releasing and dry thoroughly. In patients own homes It is the user's responsibility to keep equipment dust free. If visibly soiled please clean with warm water and detergent (washing up liquid). When no longer required these should be returned to central equipment stores for cleaning prior to re-issue	If these items show signs of age or wear and tear they must be taken out of use and disposed of.
Lavatory brushes	Store dry. Rinse thoroughly in toilet in flushing water and leave to dry in open sided holder. This is covered by the contracted cleaning team. The brushes should be changed when visibly soiled and always discarded following an outbreak or if used to clean a lavatory used by patients suffering from <i>Clostridium Difficile</i> .	
Linen Trolley Linen Skip	Should be cleaned with hot water a detergent at least weekly. If contamination occurs it should be cleaned immediately. If contaminated with blood or body fluids, clean with detergent and hot water followed by disinfection using a chlorine releasing agent and dry thoroughly.	
Locker Tops and Tables	At Hospital sites Clean with detergent and hot water and dry thoroughly daily, and on patient discharge. If contaminated with blood or body fluids clean with detergent and water followed by disinfection using a chlorine releasing agent and dry thoroughly.	

Item	Recommended Method	Comments
	In patients own homes It is the user's responsibility to keep equipment dust free. If visibly soiled please clean with warm water and detergent (washing up liquid).	
LumiraDX POCT INR testing	Wipe with hot water and detergent/ Clinell disinfectant wipes. If contaminated with blood or body fluids clean with detergent and hot water followed by disinfection using a chlorine releasing agent and dry thoroughly	
Mattress	At Hospital sites Clinell disinfectant wipes. Cleaning required if soiled and on patient discharge. If contaminated with blood or body fluids clean with detergent and water followed by disinfection using a chlorine releasing agent and dry thoroughly. In patients own homes It is the user's responsibility to keep equipment dust free. If visibly soiled please clean with warm water and detergent (washing up liquid). When no longer required these should be returned to central equipment stores for cleaning prior to re-issue.	Mattress must have plastic waterproof cover. In the event of the outer plastic cover becoming damaged (split) the item should be disposed of as clinical waste. Specialist mattresses should be cleaned according to manufacturers instructions.
Medicine pots + spoons	These are single use items only.	
Monkey poles	See bed frame cleaning.	
Mop heads		See Cleaning Equipment
Nebulisers, mask and tubing	Single patient use. – between use wash chamber and mask thoroughly with hot water and detergent, rinse and dry thoroughly. Replace weekly or if heavily soiled. When patient discharged discard single patient use item.	Clean the machine as per manufacturers instructions.
Needles	Single use only	
Oxygen tubing and mask	Single patient use. Each patient must have their own mask and tubing masks which should be cleaned with hot water and detergent as required if soiled, and change at least weekly. Discard on discharge from hospital.	
O2 machine	Follow manufacturer's instructions damp dust daily clean filters weekly when in use or after each patient use.	
Peak flow machines	Use single use disposable mouthpieces.	Wherever possible allocate patients their own machine.
Pillows	Examination couches – pillows must be cleaned between patients with Clinell disinfectant wipes. Inpatient Services – clean with Clinell disinfectant wipes on patient discharge and when soiled. If contaminated with blood or body fluids clean with detergent and water followed by disinfection using a chlorine releasing agent and dry thoroughly. If contamination has leaked onto the fabric then the pillow must be disposed of as clinical waste.	Pillows must have plastic intact cover. This must be regularly checked for holes –if when a pillow is 'hugged' air escapes then the cover has a hole in it. In the event of the outer plastic cover becoming damaged the item should be disposed of as clinical waste
Podiatry chair	Clean with Clinell disinfectant wipes before and after each session. Use paper couch roll for each patient.	
Podiatry workstation / trolley	Clean entire trolley with Clinell disinfectant wipes at the beginning of the session and when visibly soiled. Wipe work area with Clinell disinfectant wipes between each use.	Ensure no items are left on the trolley when not in use.
Pulse oximeter	Clean with detergent wipes between patients and at least weekly.	

Item	Recommended Method	Comments
Pressure relieving aids e.g. mattresses, cushion	At Hospital sites Must be allocated to an individual patient, cleaned when soiled and on discharge using Clinell disinfectant wipes. In patients own homes It is the user's responsibility to keep equipment dust free. If visibly soiled please clean with warm water and detergent (washing up liquid). When no longer required these should be returned to central equipment stores for cleaning prior to re-issue.	If contaminated with body fluids refer to manufacturers instructions
Razors (wet shave)	Use disposable single use or patients own.	Do not allow sharing of razors
Razors electric	Patients own only clean as per manufacturer's instructions.	Do not allow sharing of razors
Scales	Clean with Clinell disinfectant wipes after each use.	
Scissors	Use sterile scissors for aseptic procedures (discard single use into 'sharps' container – return reusable scissors to HSDU for reprocessing).	
Speculae (vaginal)	Single use items.	
Sputum pots	Single use items – change daily.	
Sphygmomanometers		See blood pressure cuffs
Stethoscopes	Wipe the bell and diaphragm (the ends) with Clinell disinfectant wipes between patient contact. Earpieces should be removed and cleaned with Clinell disinfectant wipes	Infection Control recommends that each member of staff has their own Stethoscope.
Sticks, frames and crutches	At Hospital sites and clinics Clean with Clinell disinfectant wipes In patients own homes It is the user's responsibility to keep equipment dust free. If visibly soiled please clean with warm water and detergent (washing up liquid). When no longer required these should be returned to central equipment stores for cleaning prior to re-issue.	
Suction equipment	All new suction machines purchased must be of a type with disposable collection bottle liners. At Hospital sites Change liner daily when in use. Accessories Suction catheters – single use. Use once and discard. Filters – disposable – change every three months or when wet or visibly soiled or as otherwise instructed by manufacturers. Tubing must be single patient use. Machines – wipe weekly or when soiled with hot water and detergent / detergent wipes. Dry thoroughly. In patients own homes Bottles - If disposable available change liner daily. If non disposable collection jars used the contents should be emptied down a lavatory and then cleaned with hot water and detergent and dried thoroughly. Suction catheters – single use only Tubing – Single patient use, flush through after each use and change every seven days unless copious amounts of secretions are present – if this is the case change daily. Machine - It is the user's responsibility to keep equipment dust free. If visibly soiled please clean with warm water and detergent (washing up liquid).	Also see Drainage & Suction Jars

Item	Recommended Method	Comments
	Filter changes and maintenance – carried out by central equipment services on long term loans as necessary. When no longer required these should be returned to central equipment stores for cleaning prior to re-issue.	
Tens machine	Pads – must be disposable single use items. Leads and machine - wipe with Clinell disinfectant wipes between uses by different patients, at least weekly or if dirty.	If contaminated with blood or body fluids refer to manufactures instruction.
Telephones	Keep dust free. Phones should be wiped with Clinell disinfectant wipes. It is expected that clinical staff take responsibility for the cleaning of this equipment.	
Tomometer Heads	Follow manufacturer's guidance.	
Thermometers	Use disposable thermometers or those with a disposable sleeve. Digital – use a new sleeve cover for each use. Wipe thermometer with Clinell disinfectant wipes between patients.	Mercury thermometers are NOT recommended.
Toothbrushes	Single patient use only.	
Tourniquets	Daisy grip tourniquets- wipe with Clinell disinfectant wipes after each use.	Fabric Tourniquets are not recommended as they are impractical to clean.
Toys	Toys must be cleaned with hot water and detergent / Clinell disinfectant wipes at least weekly and when soiled.	Soft toys and those made of wood are not recommended, as they are impractical to clean. Toy cleaning schedule should be available and records kept.
Urinals	At Hospital sites Disposable – disposed of into macerator. In the event of machine failure inform works Department immediately and dispose of bedpan contents / urinal into a lavatory or sluice then place bedpan / urinal into clinical waste bag for disposable. In patients own homes It is the user's responsibility to empty contents down a toilet, rinse thoroughly and dry. Store to keep dust free. When no longer required these should be returned to central equipment stores for cleaning prior to re-issue.	
Ultrasound probes	To be used only on intact skin. For Leg Doppler Remove gel from probe after each use with disposable paper towel. Then wipe the probe with a Clinell disinfectant wipes Abdominal Bladder Scans Remove gel from probe after each use with disposable paper towel. Then wipe the probe with a Clinell disinfectant wipes . Vaginal Probes Single patient use.	
Vacutainer (needle holders)	Single use, discard after each procedure.	
Vaginal Cones	Single patient use	
Volumatic	Single patient use	
Vomit bowls	Disposable - single use discard into macerator or dispose of contents into a lavatory and then dispose of receptacle in orange clinical waste bag.	

Item	Recommended Method	Comments
Wax baths	Wax should be processed between patients at 70°C for at least 3 minutes.	Only use on patients with intact skin and without skin condition.
Wheelchairs	At Hospital sites Clean weekly and when visibly soiled with hot water and detergent /Clinell disinfectant wipes. If contaminated with blood or body fluids clean with detergent and water followed by disinfection using a chlorine releasing agent and dry thoroughly. In patients own homes It is the users responsibility to keep equipment dust free. If visibly soiled please clean with warm water and detergent (washing up liquid).	
Weighing scales (seated adult)	Line with disposable paper towels. Clean with hot water and detergent/ Clinell disinfectant wipes . If contaminated with blood or body fluids clean with detergent and hot water followed by disinfection using a chlorine releasing agent and dry thoroughly.	
Work Surfaces	Clean daily with hot water and detergent / detergent wipes.	

If there is a particular item not stated above, please contact the Infection Prevention and Control Department for further details (01502 445361).

All wards and departments are required to maintain an inventory of equipment with a cleaning schedule and proof of compliance that will be checked at the department's annual infection control audit

Spillages

Procedure for Dealing with Body Fluid Spill on Hard Surface

- All spillages should be considered potentially infectious regardless of the patient's condition. Blood and body fluids may carry infectious micro organisms.
- Clinical staff are responsible for cleaning and disinfection of blood and body fluid spillages and should do so promptly wearing the correct personal protective equipment (PPE) (see standard precautions policy) following one of the two methods described below.
- All waste materials generated when mopping up body fluid spills, should be treated as Hazardous and disposed of accordingly.
- Hands must be washed following removal of PPE.

Method 1:

- Sprinkle absorbent disinfectant granules over the spillage and allow them to absorb the liquid for about 2 minutes.
- Remove waste and dispose of in a orange waste bag (Hazardous waste).
- The area must then be cleaned thoroughly using detergent and water and dried.

Method 2:

- The spillage should be covered with disposable paper towel to soak up excess. These should then be gathered up and placed in a orange waste bag (Hazardous waste).
- The area must then be cleaned thoroughly using detergent and hot water and dried.

- The area must then be disinfected using a chlorine releasing agent - **Urine and vomit spillages:**
- Chlorine releasing agents must never be poured directly onto urine or vomit as this causes chlorine gas to be released.
- For urine and vomit spillages follow method 2.

Spills on soft furnishings:

- Clean spills immediately
- Cover with disposable paper towel to soak up excess. These should then be gathered up and placed in a orange waste bag (Hazardous waste).
- The area must then be cleaned thoroughly using detergent and hot water.
- A steam clean should then be carried out by contract cleaners (this will need to be requested)

9. MONITORING AND REVIEW

It is the responsibility of all department heads/professional leads to ensure that the staff they manage adhere to this policy. The ECCH decontamination lead will audit the use of this policy, in conjunction with department heads/professional leads of Community Services, annually and submit to IPACC as part of the annual infection prevention and control report. Team leaders are required to complete all required audits. This policy will be reviewed by the Infection Prevention and Control Team.

10. REFERENCES

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11. ASSOCIATED POLICIES & PROCEDURES

- Enteral Feeding

12. AUTHOR

Infection Prevention and Control Team September 2024

13. APPENDICES

- 1. Single use medical devices**
- 2. Annual audit tool**
- 3. Declaration of decontamination status**

Appendix 1

Single-use medical devices



How do I know if a device is for single-use?

It will have this symbol on the packaging or the device:



What does single-use mean?

Do not reuse. A single-use device is used on an individual patient during a single procedure and then discarded. It is not intended to be reprocessed and used again, even on the same patient.

Is single-patient use the same as single-use?

No. Single-patient use means the medical device may be used for more than one episode of use on **one patient only**; the device may undergo some form of **reprocessing** between each use.

Why shouldn't they be reused?

The MHRA is aware of serious incidents relating to reuse of single-use devices.

Reuse can be unsafe because of risk of:

- **cross-infection** — inability to clean and decontaminate due to design.
- **endotoxin reaction** — excessive bacterial breakdown products, which cannot be adequately removed by cleaning.
- **patient injury** — device failure from reprocessing or reuse because of fatigue, material alteration and embrittlement.
- **chemical burns or sensitisation** — residues from chemical decontamination agents on materials that can absorb/adsorb chemicals.

Also, if you reuse a single-use device you may be legally **liable** for the safe performance of the device.

Can I sterilize a single-use device?

Some single-use devices are marketed as non-sterile. These may require reprocessing, in line with the manufacturer's instructions, to make them sterile and ready for use. Check the manufacturer's instructions for any limit on the number of times the unused device may be reprocessed. Once used on a patient, the device must be discarded.

Appendix 2

The five principles of cleaning



Recommended for use with Clinell Wipes



Wipe in an 'S'
shaped pattern



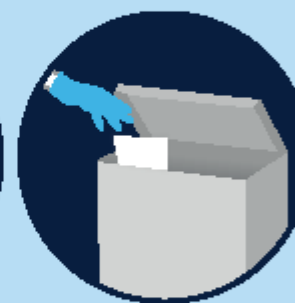
Work from top
to bottom



Wipe from
clean to dirty



Ensure correct
contact time



One wipe,
one surface

JUN2006

Appendix 3

Annual Audit Tool

Please complete table below on an annual basis (October each year) and return to the decontamination lead at infectionprevention@ecchcic.nhs.uk.

Please add any item used that are not on the list to the end of the chart.

Please include notes of non-compliance at end of table.

Location/service:

Date of completion:

Auditor:

Item/equipment	Does your service use?	What product do you use to clean it?	How often is it cleaned?	Is it on a cleaning schedule?	Other comments?
Auroscopes					
Baby change mats					
Baths, bath hoists, shower chairs					
Bed cradles					
Bed frames, sides					
Bed pans/slipper pans					
Bed pan holders					
Bladder scanner					
Blood glucose monitoring equipment					
Blood pressure monitoring equipment					
Bowls (Washing patients)					
Buckets for leg washing					

Catheter bag stands					
Commodes					
Computers and other IT equipment					
Community equipment bags					
Couches (examination)					
Dressing trolley					
Earphones					
ECG equipment (Machine & leads)					
Enteral feeding pump					
Examination lamps					
Fans					
Foam wedges					
Gym equipment					
Height stick					
Hoists					
Hoist slings					
IV Infusion pumps					
IV fluid stand					
Instrument transport container					
Linen trolley					
Linen skips					
Lockers (patient)					
Mattresses					

Medicine pots					
Mops					
Mop buckets					
Nebulisers					
O2 machine					
Peak flow meter					
Pillows					
Podiatry chair					
Podiatry workstation/trolley					
Pulse oximeter					
Pressure relieving aids					
Resus trolley					
Scissors					
Slide sheets					
Stethoscopes					
Suction equipment					
Thermometers					
Toilet raisers					
Wheelchairs					
Weighing scales					
Any other items used on patients not listed.					

Notes

Item	Details of non-compliance and action plan

Appendix 4

Declaration of Decontamination Status

This form must be completed prior to the Inspection, Servicing, Repair or Return of Medical/Laboratory Equipment

Tick box A if applicable. Otherwise complete all parts of B.

☐ A This Equipment/Item has not been used in any invasive procedure or been in contact with blood, other body fluids, respired gases or pathological samples

☐ B This Equipment/Item has been exposed internally or externally to hazardous materials as indicated below
(please tick appropriate boxes)

BLOOD
BODY FLUID
PATHOLOGICAL SAMPLES

☐
☐
☐

This equipment has had appropriate cleaning and decontamination with disinfection and detergent wipes.

Type of Equipment:

Base:

Department:

Fault Report: (Full description of problem).
.....
.....
.....
.....

THIS DECONTAMINATION STATEMENT MUST BE SIGNED BELOW

Name: (Print in block capitals)

Signature: Date:

14. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

In reviewing this policy, the HR Policy Group considered, as a minimum, the following questions:

- ☐ Are the aims of this policy clear?
- ☐ Are responsibilities clearly identified?
- ☐ Has the policy been reviewed to ascertain any potential discrimination?
- ☐ Are there any specific groups impacted upon?
- ☐ Is this impact positive or negative?
- ☐ Could any impact constitute unlawful discrimination?
- ☐ Are communication proposals adequate?
- ☐ Does training need to be given? If so is this planned?

Adverse impact has been considered for age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex, sexual orientation.

Blank version of the full Equality & Diversity Impact assessment can be found here:

http://eccho/Home/FormsGuidance.aspx?udt_575_param_index=E&udt_575_param_page=2

15. DOCUMENT CONTROL

Version Date	Version No.	Author/ Reviewer	Comments
Feb 2011	4	Decontamination Lead & IPC Specialist	References updated
Dec 2012	5	IPCT	
Dec 2014	6	IPCT	Audit tool added
Nov 2016	7	IPCT	
Sept 2018	8	IPCT	
Sept 2020	9	IPCT	
Sept 2022	10	IPCT	
Sept 2024	11	IPCT	Updated references, new audit tool added

DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

Name of Document:	Policy on Cleaning and Disinfection of Equipment, Surfaces, Environment and Skin
Version:	11
File Location / Document Name:	ECCHO
Date Of This Version:	September 2024
Produced By (Designation):	Infection Prevention & Control Team
Reviewed By:	IPACC

Synopsis And Outcomes of Consultation Undertaken:	Changes relating to relevant committees/groups involved in ratification processes.
Synopsis And Outcomes Of Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment:	No specific issues. National EIA gives more details on measures to reduce HCAI's.
Ratified By (Committee): -	IPACC
Date Ratified:	3 rd September 2024
Distribute To:	Clinical Staff
Date Due for Review:	September 2026
Enquiries To:	infectionprevention@ecchcic.nhs.uk
Approved by Appropriate Group/Committee Approved by Policy Group Presented to IGC for information	☐ Date: ☐ Date: ☐ Date: