

Safe management of care equipment Audit Tool for General Practice

In order to comply with the *Health and Social Care Act 2008: Code of Practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance*, and the *National Standards of Healthcare Cleanliness 2021* equipment (including medical devices) that comes into contact with the patient, e.g. blood glucose meters, nebulisers, must be decontaminated appropriately between use on another patient. There should be a designated Infection Prevention lead person who is responsible for infection prevention and control (including cleanliness) management.

Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff should carry out monthly audits using this audit tool to assess the standard of cleanliness of equipment and is in addition to the <i>National Standards of Healthcare Cleanliness 2021</i>. We would recommend that there should be documented evidence that stored equipment has been decontaminated and is within one month of the date when it was cleaned, e.g. 'I am clean' indicator tape. In the event of non-compliance, action plans should be produced and review regularly. Completed audit tools should be kept locally for good practice assurance and as evidence for CQC inspections.
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Audit completed by		Job title	
Premises audited		Date	


Methods of decontamination

Cleaning: Any equipment that has been in contact with intact skin should be cleaned with a detergent wipe or pH neutral detergent and warm water using a disposable cloth and dried using disposable paper towels. Cleaning with pH neutral detergent should always be undertaken before equipment is disinfected to ensure that disinfection is effective.

Disinfection: Any equipment that has been in contact with non-intact skin, body fluids or a patient with a confirmed or suspected infection, should be disinfected with an appropriate disinfectant product that is bactericidal and virucidal and be used at the correct concentration advised by the manufacturer. If equipment is contaminated with splashes of blood, the disinfectant should have virucidal properties effective against hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV. Sporocidal disinfectants should be used when a patient is confirmed or suspected to have diarrhoea due to *Clostridioides difficile*. On small items of equipment, alcohol 70% wipes can be used after cleaning first with a detergent wipe. Alcohol wipes must **not** be used to disinfect equipment used on a patient with *Clostridioides difficile* or suspected viral gastroenteritis as it will not be effective.

Note: Some disinfectant products, e.g. Clinell Universal wipes, Chlor-Clean or Actichlor Plus tablets, are '2 in 1' and contain both detergent and disinfectant, this means equipment does not need to be cleaned before disinfection.

Ear irrigators, e.g. Propulse, should be cleaned and disinfected as per manufacturer's instructions.

Question		Yes	No	N/A	Comments
1.	Detergent wipes or pH neutral detergent and warm water, disposable cloth and paper towels, are available for the cleaning of equipment.				
2.	An appropriate disinfectant is available, e.g. chlorine releasing tablets, such as Haztabs, Actichlor or liquids, for the disinfection of equipment. Alternatively, a 2 in 1 product, which contains both a detergent and a disinfectant, e.g. Chlor-Clean or Actichlor Plus tablets, Clinell Universal Wipes, are available.				
3.	Equipment is decontaminated in a designated area or away from clean items of equipment.				
4.	Hands are washed with liquid soap and warm running water before and after decontaminating equipment.				
5.	Appropriate PPE is worn when decontaminating equipment, e.g. disposable gloves, apron, the need for facial protection risk assessed.				
6.	Staff are aware that when cleaning equipment, they should work from clean to dirty, top to bottom, starting at the point furthest away, overlapping slightly, but taking care not to go over the same area twice.				
7.	There is documented evidence that equipment stored has been decontaminated, e.g. 'I am clean' indicator tape or label, or cleaning records.				
8.	Equipment that has been decontaminated is clean, free from dust, dirt and body fluid stains, and is within one month of the date written when last decontaminated. <i>Staff should check 5 items of equipment. All items should be clean and free from dust, dirt or body fluid stains. Details of the equipment checked should be documented. All items must be clean to score a 'Yes'.</i>				Items of equipment checked: 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
9.	Equipment is in a good condition, e.g. no rust, label residue or damage which would prevent effective cleaning.				
10.	Staff can describe the symbol used to indicate 'single use' items. 				
11.	Staff are aware that 'single use' items should not be reused.				
12.	Staff are aware that 'single patient use' items, e.g. nebulisers masks, spacers, can be reused on the same patient but not on any other patient.				