

Procedure Title:	General Cleaning/Low Level Disinfection Procedure	Procedure ID:	8437
Keywords	pdi wipes, virex, low, level, low-level, clean, cleaning, sporicidal C. diff, disinfect, products		

I. Purpose of Procedure

To establish a process for cleaning non-critical, reusable patient care equipment to ensure that it is cleaned/disinfected effectively and properly.

II. Procedure Scope

This procedure applies to all staff responsible for cleaning non-critical patient care equipment in all D-H locations.

III. Definitions:

- **Cleaning** is the necessary first step of any sterilization or disinfection process. Cleaning is the removal of visible soil (e.g., organic and inorganic material) from objects and surfaces and normally is accomplished manually or mechanically using water with detergents or enzymatic products. Without proper cleaning, organic and inorganic material can interfere with microbial inactivation during disinfection.
- **Low-level disinfection** is the process of killing most vegetative bacteria (except mycobacteria), some viruses, and some fungi, but not bacterial spores.
- **Contact Time (dwell time, wet time)** is the length of time a disinfectant must remain wet on a surface in order to achieve efficacy.
- **Critical Items** confer a high risk for infection if they are contaminated with any microorganism. Thus, objects that enter sterile tissue or the vascular system must be sterile because any microbial contamination could result in infection. This category includes surgical instruments, central lines, cardiac and urinary catheters, implants, and ultrasound probes used in sterile body cavities. Reusable critical items minimally require high-level disinfection.
- **Semi-critical Items** contact mucous membranes or non-intact skin. This category includes respiratory therapy and anesthesia equipment, some endoscopes, and laryngoscope blades. These medical devices should be free from all microorganisms; however, small numbers of bacterial spores are permissible. Semi-critical items minimally require high-level disinfection using chemical disinfectants.
- **Noncritical Items** are items that come in contact with intact skin but not mucous membrane. Noncritical items must be low-level or intermediate-level disinfected (e.g. bedpans, blood pressure cuffs, crutches, bed rails, bedside tables, patient furniture, stethoscopes, etc.).

- **Approved D-H cleaning/low level disinfection products**
 - PDI Super Sani wipes (purple top canister)
 - PDI AF Wipes (grey top canister)
 - Virex Plus spray or pour bottle
- **Approved D-H sporicidal disinfection products**
 - Clorox Healthcare Bleach Wipes (For use on patient equipment/surfaces in Soap & Water Contact Precaution Rooms only)

IV. Equipment

- Approved D-H cleaning/low-level disinfection products
- PPE — gloves, gown, eye protection
- Trash receptacle
- Dirty linen hamper
- Hand hygiene product
 - Alcohol-based hand rub
 - Soap and water

V. Procedure

1. Don the appropriate PPE (refer to the manufacturer's instruction to determine appropriate PPE to wear for the product you are using).
2. Gather all patient care equipment to be cleaned in an area away from clean supplies and patients.
 - a. Any patient equipment in a Soap & Water Contact Precaution room must be cleaned and disinfected with a D-H approved sporicidal disinfectant **before** removing it from the room.
3. Remove any visible soil or dried body fluid (such as blood) with desired cleaner/disinfectant.
4. After removing any visible soil, thoroughly wipe all parts of the equipment with appropriate cleaning/disinfection product, ensuring that all areas are wet with cleaning product.
5. Ensure the equipment stays wet for the manufacturer's recommended dwell/contact time.
 - a. Do not wipe the equipment dry.
 - b. If drying occurs before the recommended dwell time, re-wipe the piece of equipment and allow it to dry.
6. Properly discard the used cleaning products in the appropriate receptacle.
7. Properly remove PPE and place in dirty linen hamper and/or trash.
8. Perform hand hygiene.

VI. References - N/A

Responsible Owner:	Collaborative Healthcare-associated Infection Prevention Program (CHIP)	Contact(s):	Cameron Griffin washyourhands@hitchcock.org
Approved By:	Office of Policy Support - Organizational Policies Only; Nolan-Kelley, Laurie	Version #	3
Current Approval Date:	07/11/2019	Old Document ID:	
Date Procedure to go into Effect:	07/11/2019		
Related Polices & Procedures:	General Cleaning/Low-Level Disinfection Policy		
Related Job Aids:	General Cleaning/Low Level Disinfection Poster Job Aid		