

Decontamination



Care Homes IPC Study Day

Sue Barber

Infection Prevention & Control Lead
AV & Chiltern CCG's

What not to do!



Overview

- When looking after people in health and social care we need to ensure they are cared for in a clean, safe environment.
- Dirt can harbour germs and allow infections to spread
- A clutter free environment is easier to clean and gives the appearance of cleanliness
- We will think about cleanliness of environments and decontamination of patient equipment.

Colour coding



Red Bathrooms, washrooms, showers, toilets, basins and bathroom floors

Blue General areas including wards, offices, departments and basins in public areas

Green Kitchen areas

Yellow Isolation areas and infection risks

Environmental Cleaning

How to clean

- High to low
- Clean to dirty
- Rinse cloths regularly
- Cleaning solutions changed regularly
- On hard floors dust control before mopping
- Disposable cloths and mop heads or launder daily on a hot wash
- Storage of equipment
 - Mop heads when damp should be stored head uppermost to promote draining.
 - Buckets should be dried after use or stored inverted.
 - If not this can happen...



Cleaning equipment - also needs cleaning!



Damp mop head

Cleaning products



- Understand your cleaning products
- For most general cleaning you will need a neutral general purpose detergent
- For cleaning bathroom areas the product also needs a disinfectant component
- For cleaning during outbreaks, or for Cdiff patients a chlorine product is needed i.e bleach based
- Ensure products are made to the correct concentration
- Beware of products which say they kill everything – they rarely do

Monitoring

- How can you evidence your cleaning standards
- If you have your own cleaning staff
 - Are they adequately trained
 - Do they have clear procedures to follow
 - Are standards monitored eg visual checks
- If external contractors are used make sure:
 - roles & responsibilities are defined,
 - tasks and frequency of cleaning is clear
 - standards are monitored.
- Visual checks are good but remember germs are invisible so this is why your procedures also need to be robust.

Decontamination of Equipment

- All reusable equipment must be decontaminated between each resident's use
 - Check processes are in place for this
 - How do you know an item is clean?
- Follow manufacturers instructions for cleaning
- Consider cleaning when purchasing any new equipment
- Make sure the appropriate cleaning product is used and at the correct concentration
- Keep equipment in a covered area to prevent dust build up
- Consider what and how much equipment you need
- Dispose of damaged equipment



Contamination

- The soiling of objects with harmful or potentially infectious matter which could be transferred to a person during use and storage.

Decontamination

- A process which removes or destroys contamination so that infectious agents do not multiply at a susceptible site



Three levels of decontamination

- Cleaning - low risk
- Disinfection - medium risk communal equipment
- Sterilization - High risk



Risk Assessment

- Low Risk
- Medium Risk
- High Risk
- The level of decontamination depends on
 - The type of equipment used eg. Walking frame, commode, surgical instruments
 - The type of contamination blood, faeces etc.
 - If there is an outbreak
 - Individual Infections

Low risk equipment - cleaning

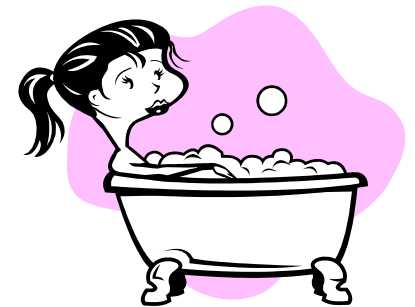
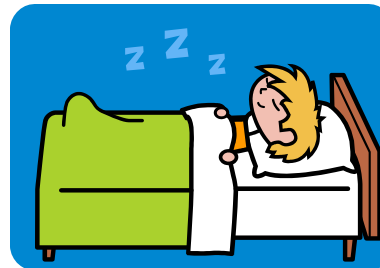
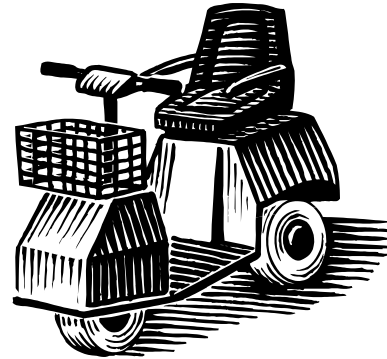
Beds

Wheelchairs

Baths

TV remote

Walking frame



Cleaning

- A process that removes organic matter and the majority of infectious agents.
- May not remove all infectious agents
- Suitable for low risk equipment
- General purpose detergent & water or detergent wipes are used
- Cleaning is an essential process before disinfection or sterilisation



Medium risk - disinfection

- Must be cleaned prior to disinfection
- Contaminated with body fluids
- Outbreak situation
- Body fluid spillage



Disinfection

- A process used to reduce the number of potentially infectious agents, but not bacterial spores
- It will not destroy all bacteria, but may cause inactivation
- Slow down the multiplication of harmful bacteria

Disinfectants

- Chlorine releasing agents eg.
 - Actichlor, Milton, SoChlor
- Cleaning dilution - 1000ppm
- Blood spillage - 10,000ppm
- Use in outbreak situations
- Must be made up to the correct concentration and disposed of after 4 hours
- Must be kept in a secure area (COSHH regs)
- Most areas now use a combined detergent and chlorine agent to enable the cleaning & disinfection steps to be carried out together eg.
 - Actichlor plus, SoChlor DST



High Risk Equipment – Sterilised or single use

- Equipment that goes into the body or is in contact with non intact skin eg.
 - Needles
 - Catheters
 - Wound dressings



Sterilization

- A process that is used to kill most infectious agents
 - Bacteria, viruses and bacterial spores
- Makes safe for re-use of medical devices
- All your sterile equipment will be single use disposable items



Games & toys



- Consider when purchasing if they can be cleaned
- Clean regularly with detergent and water or detergent wipes
- Store clean and dry and if possible in a cupboard to minimise dust
- Throw away if damaged
- Do not have communal soft toys



Exercise

- List the items of reusable equipment that you have in your workplace

- What procedures do you have to ensure that this equipment is cleaned correctly

Summary

- The environments must be kept clean and safe to protect residents
- Equipment must be decontaminated between each residents use
- Important to use the cleaning products correctly
- For cleaning you need detergent & water/detergent wipes and for the disinfection and chlorine based product