

IPC4 Minimise the risk of spreading infection by cleaning, disinfection and storing care equipment

OVERVIEW

This standard concerns the routine cleaning, disinfection and storage of re-usable non-invasive care equipment to minimise the risk of spreading infection. All staff in health and social care environments should receive training in cleaning, with or without disinfection of the care equipment they use but it should be clear who is responsible for this within each area or care setting. Cleaning and disinfecting are the terms that are used in this standard however in some areas the term 'decontamination' is used. 'Decontamination' is an umbrella term which incorporates cleaning, disinfecting and sterilising as appropriate. This standard covers activity in all health and social care environments, including community and domiciliary settings, and ambulance vehicles/stations, but excluding specialised settings, such as laboratories, pharmacies, or operating theatres, where more specialised methods may be required. Version No 3.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

You need to know and understand:

- 1.the current legislation, guidelines, policies, procedures and protocols which are relevant to your work practice and to which you must adhere
- 2.the scope and limitations of your own competence, responsibilities and accountability as it applies to your job role
- 3.how to access and interpret all relevant work instructions and information
- 4.specific procedures for reporting issues which are beyond your competence, responsibilities and accountability
- 5.the duty to report any acts or omissions that could be unsafe/detrimental to you or others
- 6.the hazards and risks which may arise during the execution of your work role and how you can minimise these
- 7.how to access facilities for hand hygiene
- 8.effective techniques for maintaining hand hygiene
- 9.the appropriate personal protective equipment to use when cleaning equipment
- 10.how to safely put on, remove and dispose of personal protective equipment
- 11.who is responsible for cleaning equipment
- 12.when disinfectant is to be used as part of the cleaning process
- 13.the cleaning schedules for deep and routine cleaning which involve cloths and other reusable cleaning products being cleaned or disposed of after use as appropriate

- 14.the uses, dilutions, methods of application, storage and disposal of cleaning, and disinfectant products
- 15.how to distinguish between single-use and reusable equipment and/or personal protective equipment and how to dispose, launder, clean, disinfect and store them safely
- 16.how to complete and safely store all relevant documentation in accordance with organisational requirements

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

You must be able to:

- 1.access and accurately interpret all relevant work instructions and information
- 2.work safely at all times and in accordance with all relevant legislation, guidelines, policies, procedures and protocols
- 3.deal promptly and effectively with any problems within your control and report those which cannot be solved
- 4.identify and minimise hazards and risk in the workplace
- 5.perform effective hand hygiene before and on completion of the activity in accordance with organisational policy/procedures
- 6.inspect the care equipment before use, and ensure it is clean
- 7.assess what cleaning, with or without disinfection, is required, and choose the appropriate agent and equipment
- 8.gather the cleaning, and if required disinfection, agent and equipment and put on the appropriate personal protective equipment before commencing
- 9.clean the care equipment according to the type of equipment, manufacturer's instructions and organisational procedures
- 10.use disinfectant safely where this is required as part of the cleaning process
- 11.assess the state of repair of care equipment during cleaning, remove any equipment immediately that is not fit for use in accordance with organisational policy
- 12.report and replace any item that is damaged
- 13.ensure care equipment is stored in a clean, designated place in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and organisational procedures
- 14.discard single use equipment and personal protective equipment in accordance with organisational procedures
- 15.return cleaning and disinfection agents to safe storage, following regulations and guidance concerning hazardous substances, health and safety guidance and the manufacturer's instructions
- 16.ensure your cleaning and disinfection equipment is clean, fit for purpose, appropriately colour coded, in a good state of repair, and is stored in a clean designated place
- 17.discard disposable equipment in accordance with organisational policy
- 18.complete and store all relevant documentation in accordance with organisational requirements

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This National Occupational Standard was developed by Skills for Health. Final version approved March 2021