

ISLHD Infection Management and Control Service

Cleaning [Environmental & Clean Between

What is it?

Cleaning is the removal of soil or dirt from environmental surfaces and equipment. This involves water, physical action and a cleaning agent such as neutral detergent. This simple action of cleaning removes large numbers of microorganisms.

How do you do it?

Clean Between: clean every piece of equipment used on/for a patient with neutral detergent before and after use. This is done by the healthcare worker who uses the equipment regardless of employment award. If you wouldn't feel comfortable for the item of patient equipment to be used on you Then it probably isn't clean!

Tuffie™ wipes: are neutral detergent wipes ideal for this purpose or freshly made up detergent can be used with a disposable cleaning cloth.

Environmental Cleaning: Neutral detergent is used for cleaning of the patient area and ward environment. Priority cleaning areas are high-touch zones eg: door handles, light switches, patient bedside tables (think about the underside).

Surface Disinfection: All bathrooms, rooms accommodating patients colonised with a multi-resistant organisms and the equipment used for them must be cleaned and disinfected.

ChlorClean™: In ISLHD we use a combined detergent and disinfectant for one step cleaning and disinfection.

Two-step Disinfection: neutral detergent wipes eg: Tuffies™ followed by an alcohol impregnated wipe eg: Isowipe™ is needed when the surface or material can't tolerate ChlorClean™

How does it benefit our patients?

Regular, thorough cleaning can reduce the amount of organisms on health care surfaces and reduce healthcare-associated infection in patients and staff.

A clean environment promotes a feeling of safety and well-being for patients and their carers.

How does it benefit you?

Maintaining the safety of patients in your care.

A safe, clean environment to work in.

Where to get more information?

NSW Health Environmental cleaning policy

http://www0.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/pd/2012/pdf/PD2012_061.pdf

Soon to be released ISLHD PD Equipment Cleaning Guideline.

