

**Section 7: Principles of Cleaning and
Disinfecting Environmental Surfaces**

Policy number: **7.2**

Issued: **September 2015**

Subject: **Levels of Clean**

Revised:

Distribution: **All FNIHB Staff**

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 Health care facilities may be categorized into two components for the purposes of environmental cleaning:
- 1.1.1 *Hotel component* is the area of the facility that is not involved in client care; this includes public areas such as lobbies and waiting rooms; offices; corridors; stairwells; and service areas. Areas designated in the hotel component are cleaned with a *Hotel Clean* regimen.
 - 1.1.2 *Hospital component* is the areas of the facility that is involved in client care; this includes procedure rooms; bathrooms; clinic rooms; clean and sterile equipment and supplies storage rooms; and diagnostic and treatment areas. Areas designated in the hospital component are cleaned with a *Hospital Clean* regimen.
- 1.2 Provision of a *Hospital Clean* care environment is important for both client safety and staff safety. Environmental cleaning of these two component areas must be categorized and resourced differently in terms of cleaning priority, intensity, frequency and manpower. From a client safety and staff safety perspective, Hospital Clean is the most important cleaning and resource priorities should be centred here.

2 POLICY

- 2.1 All staff working in FNIHB-OR Community Health Centres and nursing stations must understand the differences between Hotel Clean and Hospital Clean and must follow the respective cleaning practices dictated by the area of care and subsequent level of clean.
- 2.2 FNIHB-OR personnel must adhere to the specific information and standard operating procedures as outlined in the *FNIHB-OR Environmental Cleaning Procedure Manual*.

3 PROCEDURE

- 3.1 Level of Clean:
- 3.1.1 Hotel Clean:
 - 3.1.1.1 Measure of cleanliness based on visual appearance that includes dust and dirt removal, waste disposal and cleaning of windows and surfaces

3.1.1.2 Basic cleaning that takes place in areas of the health facility that are **not** involved in client care

3.1.1.3 Includes public areas such as:

3.1.1.3.1 Lobbies and waiting rooms

3.1.1.3.2 Offices

3.1.1.3.3 Corridors

3.1.1.3.4 Stairwells

3.1.1.3.5 service areas

3.1.2 Hospital Clean:

3.1.2.1 Measure of cleanliness routinely maintained in **care areas** of the health facility

3.1.2.2 Includes areas such as:

3.1.2.2.1 Bathrooms

3.1.2.2.2 Vlinic rooms

3.1.2.2.3 Diagnostic and treatment areas

3.1.2.2.4 Equipment reprocessing (sterilization) areas

3.1.2.2.5 Sterile supplies storage and clean utility rooms

3.1.2.3 “Hospital clean” is “*Hotel Clean*” **with the addition** of:

3.1.2.3.1 Disinfection, increased frequency of cleaning, auditing and other infection control measures in client care areas

3.2 Components of Hotel Clean and Hospital Clean

| Components of Hotel Clean | Components of Hospital Clean |
|---|---|
| Floors and baseboards are free of stain, visible dust, spills, streaks, mouse droppings and flies | Floors and baseboards are free of stain, visible dust, spills, streaks, mouse droppings and flies |
| Walls, ceilings and doors are free of visible dust, gross soil, streaks, spider webs and handprints | Walls, ceilings and doors are free of visible dust, gross soil, streaks, spider webs and handprints |
| All horizontal surfaces are free of visible dust or streaks, mouse droppings and flies (includes furniture, window ledges, overhead lights, phones, picture frames, carpets etc.) | All horizontal surfaces are free of visible dust or streaks, mouse droppings and flies (includes furniture, window ledges, overhead lights, phones, picture frames, carpets etc.) |
| Mirrors and windows are free of dust and streaks | Mirrors and windows are free of dust and streaks |

| | |
|--|---|
| Soap, alcohol and paper towel dispensers are free of dust, soiling and residue and replaced/replenished when empty | Soap, alcohol and paper towel, masks, and glove dispensers are free of dust, soiling and residue and replaced/replenished when empty |
| Appliances are free of dust, soiling and stains | Appliances are free of dust, soiling and stains |
| Waste is disposed of appropriately | Waste is disposed of appropriately |
| Items that are broken, torn, cracked or malfunctioning are replaced | Items that are broken, torn, cracked or malfunctioning are replaced |
| | PLUS |
| Bathroom fixtures including toilets, sinks, tubs and showers are free of streaks, soil, stains and soap scum | Bathroom fixtures including toilets, sinks, tubs and showers are free of streaks, soil, stains and soap scum |
| | High-touch surfaces in client care areas are cleaned and disinfected with a hospital-grade cleaner (e.g. stretcher, wheelchair arms and handles, grab rails, door knobs) |
| | Non-critical medical equipment is cleaned and disinfected between clients (e.g. stethoscopes) |
| | Cleaning practices are periodically monitored and audited with feedback and education |

4 REFERENCES

Public Health Ontario. (2012). Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning for Prevention and Control of Infections in all Health Care Settings. 2nd Edition. Retrieved from http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/Best_Practices_Environmental_Cleaning_2012.pdf