

Section 7: Principles of Cleaning and Disinfecting Environmental Surfaces

Policy number: 7.5

Subject: New Equipment and Product Purchases

Issued: September 2015

Revised:

Distribution: All FNIHB Staff

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 High-touch environmental surfaces of the health care setting hold a greater risk of becoming contaminated with infectious agents than do public areas of non-health care organizations. Health care settings are complex environments due to the nature of activities and assessments performed, and the activities, interactions and behaviors of health care providers (HCP), with clients and visitors within the health care setting. This increases the likelihood of direct and indirect contact with infectious agents and contaminated surfaces, many of which may constitute a risk to HCP, clients, and visitors in the environment.
- 1.2 Some of these infectious agents can survive for extended periods of time on environmental surfaces. Clients using these same surfaces may also shed microorganisms into the health care environment and these surfaces may subsequently be touched by other health care providers and clients.
- 1.3 Therefore, when purchasing any new equipment or products that are used in the provision of care to clients they must be capable of being cleaned and disinfected according to the most current standards and guidelines.

2 POLICY

- 2.1 When purchasing any new equipment or products that are used in the provision of care to clients, items must be capable of being cleaned and disinfected according to the most current IPAC standards and guidelines. In addition, personnel from Environmental Services must be involved in the decision-making process regarding the best and most practical choices for these items.

3 PROCEDURE

- 3.1 When purchasing new non-critical medical equipment:
 - 3.1.1 Do not purchase medical equipment that cannot be cleaned and disinfected according to the recommended IPAC standards
 - 3.1.2 When purchasing cleaning agents or equipment, consideration must be given to occupational health requirements (staff safety, ergonomics, training requirements), client safety, IPAC standards, and environmental safety issues

- 3.1.3 All non-critical medical equipment that will be purchased and will be cleaned must include written item-specific manufacturer's cleaning and disinfection instructions.
- 3.1.4 Items that are provided by outside agencies and returned to the agency for cleaning and disinfection are subject to the same standards as in-house equipment.

4 REFERENCES

Friedman, C., & Petersen, K.H. (2004). Infection Control in Ambulatory Care. Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett Publishers.

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