PURPOSE:
To minimize the risk of transmitting infection between patients or employees through contaminated equipment or supplies.

POLICY:

1) Level of disinfection / sterilization:
   a) Critical medical and surgical devices and instruments that enter normally sterile tissue or the vascular system or through which a sterile body fluid flows (e.g., blood) are sterilized before use on each patient by Ethylene oxide gas, Sterrad technology, steam sterilization, or use of a sterilizer such as STERIS for the specified period of time are acceptable. (See ICM Section VI: Sterilization & Monitoring of Sterile Processes.)
   b) Semicritical patient-care equipment (e.g., gastrointestinal endoscopes, endotracheal tubes, anesthesia breathing circuits, and respiratory therapy equipment) that touches either mucous membranes or nonintact skin receive, at a minimum, high-level disinfection before use on each patient, by using a sporicidal chemical (Cidex OPA) or sterilization.
   c) Noncritical patient-care surfaces (e.g., bedrails, over-the-bed table) and equipment (e.g., blood pressure cuff) that touch intact skin receive low-level disinfection with a hospital-grade disinfectant before use on each patient.
      i) Surfaces that come into contact only with intact skin, but could be contaminated with body secretions, e.g., stethoscopes, blood pressure cuffs, splints.
      ii) Surfaces must be pre-cleaned for visible material before the EPA-registered hospital disinfectant is applied.
      iii) High-touch environmental surfaces are cleaned and disinfected daily and between patients:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Care Areas</th>
<th>Bathroom</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Door knobs and cabinet handles</td>
<td>Sink handles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keyboards, mouse, and BMV device</td>
<td>Handrails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bed rails, control panel, nurse call paddle</td>
<td>Toilet handles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light switch</td>
<td>Toilet seat</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
2) **Cleaning Products** are selected and used which reduce the spread of infections
   
a) Microfiber towels & mopheads are used. Mop heads are changed between patient rooms.
   
b) Flip-top lids are used for dispensing cleaning / disinfecting products in patient rooms.
   
3) **Patient rooms**
   
a) Patient rooms are cleaned daily, at discharge, and as needed in-between.
   
b) Soiled linen and trash are removed at least daily.
   
c) Walls and window curtains are cleaned when visibly contaminated or soiled.
   
d) Privacy Curtains are exchanged and or cleaned when visibility contaminated or soiled and laundered following discharge of an isolated patient.
   
e) Keyboards, touch panels and Bedside Medication Verification devices in patient rooms:
      
i) Keyboard covers are to be present over any computer keyboard used in a patient room.
   
ii) Computer keyboards should be considered contaminated.
   
iii) Antimicrobial wipes are provided within easy reach and visibility of the computer terminal. Antimicrobial wipes are used for the cleaning and disinfection of computers, keyboards, mouse, monitor casings (not screen), and Bedside Medication Verification (BMV) scanner.
   
iv) Keyboards and BMV device are cleaned/disinfected with the following frequency:
      
(1) Daily: Environmental Services cleans and disinfects keyboard, scanner hand grip and mouse at least daily and between patients using the approved hospital disinfectant.
   
(2) As needed and when visibly soiled or if contaminated with body secretions, the user cleans and disinfects the keyboard and mice with antimicrobial wipes.
   
(3) Monitor casings, mobile cart handles, bedside computer units (including mobile in NICU), legs and wheels are cleaned with a damp cloth by Environmental Services.
   
v) Monitor screens are cleaned with a damp soft cloth between patients, when visibly soiled or when the device is removed from an isolation room.
   
vi) In addition to routine cleaning and disinfection, when used in an isolation room, the keyboard, scanner hand grip, mouse and handle of the mobile cart must be cleaned and disinfected with antimicrobial wipes between patients or when the system is removed from isolation.
   
f) **Patient Touch Screen Monitors**
      
i) Daily: Environmental Services cleans and disinfects patient touch screen monitors daily and between patients using the approved hospital disinfectant.
   
ii) Patient monitor cables are cleaned and disinfected between patients by Environmental Services.
   
g) Non-mobile Oximeters are cleaned and disinfected between patients by Environmental Services.
   
h) Wall mounted equipment is cleaned and disinfected between patients by Environmental Services.
   
i) IV Pumps, Compression Pumps, and Commodes, are cleaned and disinfected between patients by Environmental Services.

4) **Operating Room Departmental Sanitation**
   
a) Schedules for cleaning the surgical suite are available in Environmental Services.
   
b) Targeted cleaning of the Operating Rooms occurs between cases and at the end of the day. Additional cleaning occurs at least weekly.
   
c) **Between-Case Cleaning**
      
i) Contaminated instruments, basins, trays, and other items will be placed in a case cart and transported to Surgical Processing.
   
ii) Soiled linen will be bagged, securely closed, and removed.
   
iii) Linen contaminated with blood or body fluids will be placed in a red properly labeled bags or containers, securely closed, and transported to Surgical Processing.
(1) If there is a potential for leakage from the bag, a second soil linen liner will be used.

iv) Solid waste will be bagged and/or placed directly into a rigid impervious container, securely closed, and removed to an appropriate storage area.
   (1) Waste contaminated with blood or body fluids will be placed in red properly labeled plastic bags or containers and securely closed.
   (2) Disposable sharps are to be placed in appropriate sharps containers.
   (3) Suction canisters are emptied to the sanitary sewer using a mechanical device.

v) Horizontal surfaces, stands, equipment, the face and hand grips of the high-intensity surgical lights, door handles, and all furniture are sanitized with a disinfectant.
   (1) Wheels are included as needed.
   (2) Beds are disassembled and cleaned with germicidal solution and allowed to air dry. Pads and tunnels are sanitized.

vi) Walls and ceilings will be spot cleaned and sanitized if they are visibly soiled.

vii) A 3-4 foot perimeter around the operative site is mopped and sanitized and is extended if visible blood or debris is present.

d) End of Day (Final) Cleaning (in addition to the above cleaning)
   i) Beds are disassembled and cleaned with germicidal solution and allowed to air dry.
      (a) Pads and tunnels are sanitized.
   ii) Tops of surfaces and ledges 5 feet or more from the floor will be high dusted, including
       (a) Ceiling fixtures
       (b) Outside of cords, tubes, lights, and hoses
   (2) Booms and vents
   (3) Spotlights (sanitized with germicidal solution)
   iii) Dusting and sanitizing of horizontal surfaces, ledges, shelves, equipment, furniture and fixtures including at least the OR table, stainless steel tables, stands for waste bags, the face, hand grips, and tracks of the high-intensity surgical lights,
        (a) In addition to sanitizing the surface, any visible blood is removed
   iv) Dusting and sanitizing of vertical surfaces, doors, door handles, door frames, telephones, and walls, wall fixtures, vents and panels
   v) High touch surfaces such as door and drawer handles, light switch cover plates, computer keyboards, and telephone receiver will be cleaned with germicidal solution.
   vi) The floor is cleaned and sanitized with the AutoScrub machine, including areas under the bed and equipment.
      (a) Equipment wheels are rolled through germicide before relocating to the proper area.

e) Weekly (Cycle) Cleaning (in addition to the above cleaning)
   i) Cabinets, walls, and ceilings will be disinfected with germicidal solution

f) Non-Sterile Areas
   i) Non-sterile areas including desk area, offices (when utilized), dictation and/or conference areas, locker rooms, restrooms and lounges will be cleaned daily.

5) Short Stay
   a) Short stay rooms and patient carts are cleaned and disinfected by Environmental Services between patients.
   b) Clinical Equipment is cleaned by the clinical staff (refer to policy ICM Section VI: Cleaning and Disinfection of Patient care equipment.) with the exception of the following:
      i) Oximeters are cleaned and disinfected by Environmental Services daily.
      ii) Blood Pressure machines are cleaned and disinfected by Environmental Services between patients.
      iii) Wall mounted equipment is cleaned by Environmental Services daily.

6) PACU
   a) PACU is cleaned and disinfected daily by Environmental Services.
i) Wall mounted equipment is cleaned daily by Environmental Services.

ii) Patient carts are cleaned and disinfected between patients by Environmental Services.

7) **Burn/Wound Care Center Department Sanitation.**
   a) Patient Rooms are cleaned following the Patient Room cleaning guidelines (3 above)
   b) Operating Rooms are cleaned following the Operating Room Departmental Sanitation guidelines (4 above)
   c) Procedure Rooms are cleaned between patients by the Burn/Wound Care Center Burn Techs.
      i) All equipment including the tub carts are cleaned by the Burn Techs
      ii) Weekly terminal cleaning in the Procedure Rooms is completed by Environmental Services to include washing walls and scrubbing the floors.

8) **Labor and Delivery**
   a) Labor and Delivery Rooms are cleaned upon transfer or discharge following the Patient Room cleaning guidelines (3 above)
   b) Fetal Heart Monitors are cleaned and disinfected by Environmental Services between patients.
   c) Operating Rooms are cleaned following the Operating Room Departmental Sanitation guidelines (4 above)
   d) Monitor cable in the Recovery Room are cleaned and disinfected between patients by Environmental Services.

9) **Critical and Progressive Care**
   a) Critical Care Rooms are cleaned daily, upon transfer or discharge following the Patient Room cleaning guidelines (3 above)

10) **Emergency Department**
    a) Emergency Department treatment rooms are cleaned between patients by the Emergency Department Techs
    b) Emergency Department treatment rooms are cleaned and horizontal surfaces disinfected daily by Environmental Services. Vertical surfaces are cleaned/disinfected daily as needed.
    c) Emergency Department treatment rooms have additional weekly cleaning provided by Environmental Services.
       1) The patient carts are disassembled and cleaned with germicidal solution and allowed to air dry.
          a) Pads and tunnels are sanitized.
          2) Walls are washed

11) **Cath Lab**
    a) Cath Labs procedure rooms are cleaned and disinfected by the Cardiology department between patients.
    b) All horizontal surfaces in the Cath Lab procedure rooms are cleaned and disinfected daily by Environmental Services.
    c) Cath Lab procedure room walls are cleaned and disinfected weekly by Environmental Services.

12) **MRI**
    a) MRI equipment is cleaned by the MRI Tech
    b) The MRI room is cleaned daily by Environmental Services
       i) No metal can enter the MRI room
       ii) An associate with a pacemaker will not be asked to clean in the MRI room
       iii) An associate known to have had an aneurism will not be asked to clean in the MRI room

13) **Radiology and Endoscopy**
    a) Procedure Tables will be cleaned by the respective department with the exception of the base and casters in which Environmental Services will clean daily.
    b) Procedure machines and gas lines that require the use of a high dusting tool will be dusted by Environmental Services

14) **Other Special Situations**
    a) Rooms of patients with C. difficile or Norovirus infection
       i) Signs are posted for hand hygiene with soap and water
ii) Virasept® and bleach wipes are used for surfaces and equipment

b) Isolation Rooms
   i) Appropriate attire is used during the room cleaning
   ii) With the exception of the above situations (13a) standard cleaning processes and materials are used.
   iii) Privacy curtains are removed and replaced

15) Equipment Cleaning & Disinfection – addressed in a separate policy ICM Section VI: Cleaning and Disinfection of Patient care equipment.

16) Monitoring Environmental Cleaning - ATP Bioluminescence Monitoring is conducted, recorded and acted upon by the Director of Environmental Services or their delegate. (See Environmental Cleaning Monitoring procedure, this manual)
   a) A summary of the results of testing are communicated to the Infection Prevention Coordinator at least quarterly. The Infection Control Committee is informed as indicated.
   b) Samples are taken only after cleaning. If any soiling or residue is apparent, the area is re-cleaned before testing.
      i) Samples are taken from high-touch areas as defined in 1.c.iii. above
      ii) Results are recorded including: department, location (e.g., room number), sample source (e.g. light switch), cleaner's identification
   c) ATP monitoring is part of an overall system for quality control and performance improvement.
   d) The frequency of testing depends on the risk associated with the control point. Results will be acquired for each Environmental Services associate every quarter.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table I: Non-critical Disinfectants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Product name</strong></td>
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<td>Tor-HB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asepticare-TB+II</td>
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<td>Bleach Saniwipe</td>
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<td>Asepticare HB</td>
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<td>Equipment</td>
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<td>Bleach</td>
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References:

1. Computer equipment used in patient care within a multihospital system: Recommendations for cleaning and disinfection Neely et al. AJIC, Vol. 33 No. 4 May 2005

