



MONTANA STATE HOSPITAL POLICY AND PROCEDURE

CLEANING OF NON-CRITICAL, REUSABLE PATIENT CARE EQUIPMENT

Effective Date: September 5, 2014

Policy #: IC- 19

Page 1 of 3

- I. **PURPOSE:** To establish a process for the cleaning of non-critical, reusable patient care equipment.
- II. **POLICY:** In accordance with existing infection prevention and control policies and procedures, Montana State Hospital will implement and maintain processes to ensure all non-critical, reusable patient care equipment is routinely cleaned before and after reuse.
- III. **DEFINITIONS:**
 - A. Cleaning – The physical removal of foreign material, e.g. dust, oil, organic material such as blood, secretions, excretions and micro-organisms. Cleaning reduces or eliminates the reservoirs of potential pathogenic organisms. It is accomplished with water, detergents and mechanical action.
 - B. Disinfection – The inactivation of disease producing organisms. Disinfection does not destroy high levels of bacterial spores. Disinfectants are used on inanimate objects. Disinfection usually involves chemicals, heat or ultraviolet light. Levels of chemical disinfection vary with the type of product used.
 - C. Non-Critical Equipment – Those items that either touch only intact skin but not mucous membranes or do not directly touch the patient.
 - D. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – Equipment to be worn if hazardous situations cannot be engineered out or controlled by other methods. PPE will either prevent or reduce the severity of an injury should an accident occur. PPE can include, but is not limited to: Safety Goggles, Safety Shoes, Respirators, Gloves, Protective Gowns, etc.
 - E. Reprocessing – The steps performed to prepare a used medical device for reuse. Reprocessing includes the collection and transportation of soiled devices, cleaning, inspection, disinfection, sterilization, packaging, clean transportation and storage of clean and disinfected/sterilized devices.
 - F. Reusable Equipment – A device designed and tested by the manufacturer, that is suitable for reprocessing prior to use on a patient/resident/client.
 - G. Routine Practices – A set of infection prevention control precautions and practices used for all direct care, regardless of the patient's presumed infection status or diagnosis.
- IV. **RESPONSIBILITIES:** Cleaning is a shared responsibility between the Nursing and Housekeeping departments.

V. PROCEDURE:

- A. All equipment must be cleaned immediately if visibly soiled, and immediately after use on patients with contact precautions (e.g. MRSA, VRE, and C-Difficile) regardless of cleaning schedule.
- B. Patient care equipment should be dedicated to the use of a single patient and cleaned, disinfected and/or reprocessed before reuse with another patient or before placed in storage. All units will set up a schedule for cleaning with specific assignments to ensure tasks are completed.
- C. Items routinely shared, which cannot be cleaned between uses, will follow a regular schedule for cleaning and disinfection.
- D. Cleaning and maintenance processes will follow manufacturer's recommendations.
- E. The application of tape on patient care equipment should be discouraged.
- F. All health care workers must exercise routine practices (i.e. hand hygiene) and wear the required PPE appropriate for the task.
- G. Any damaged equipment must be reported to the department manager for decision regarding replacement or the ability to clean.
- H. Special, additional cleaning may be required in an outbreak situation. Procedures will be determined in consultation with the Infection Preventionist.
- I. Disposable patient care equipment and supplies shall be immediately discarded after use.
- J. Personal care items/effects (such as lotions, razors, skin cleansers) are single use patient items and are not to be shared between patients.
- K. All horizontal and frequently touched surfaces shall be cleaned daily and immediately when soiled.
- L. The Housekeeping Manager and the Infection Preventionist must approve all products used for the stages of cleaning/disinfection process.
- M. Steps in Cleaning:
 - 1. Follow device manufacture's recommendations for cleaning and maintaining medical equipment.

Montana State Hospital Policy and Procedure

CLEANING OF NON-CRITICAL, REUSABLE PATIENT CARE EQUIPMENT

Page 3 of 4

2. In the absence of recommendations, clean non-critical medical equipment surfaces with a mild detergent followed by cleaning with a disinfectant.
3. Follow product recommendations for disinfectants (amount of time to apply and so on).
4. Use protective equipment such as gloves, goggles and gowns as needed.
5. Glucometers must be cleaned between each patient or before going into storage.
6. Allow equipment to dry before using.
7. Monitors and LCD screens should not be cleaned with a disinfectant. They can be dusted with a soft, lint free cloth. A damp cloth can also be used to remove dirt and smudges.

VI. REFERENCES: CDC, APIC

VII. COLLABORATED WITH: Director of Nursing, Infection Prevention Coordinating Group.

VIII. RESCISSIONS: #IC-19, *Cleaning of Non-Critical, Reusable Patient Care Equipment* dated March 1, 2010.

IX. DISTRIBUTION: All hospital policy manuals, Exposure Control Plan Manual

X. ANNUAL REVIEW AND AUTHORIZATION: This policy is subject to annual review and authorization for use by either the Administrator or the Medical Director with written documentation of the review (Attachment B) per M.C.A. § 307-106-330.

XI. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY: Infection Preventionist

XII. ATTACHMENTS: [Equipment Cleaning Guidelines](#)

_____/____/____
John W. Glueckert Date
Hospital Administrator

_____/____/____
Thomas Gray, MD Date
Medical Director

Equipment Cleaning Guidelines

Listed below are some but not all of the most commonly used equipment

Equipment	Direct Care Staff	Cleaning	Other
Automated Vital Sign machine	In between each patient use	Wipe with sani-cloth or alcohol wipes	
BP cuffs	In between each patient use	Wipe with sani-cloth	Send to Housekeeping if soiled with body fluids
Geri chairs	Daily In between each patient use	Clean with hospital approved disinfectant	
Clippers, tweezers and other nail care products	In between each patient use	Clean visible debris, then soak in 70% alcohol for 10 minutes	**Send to Med Clinic for complete sterilization as needed
Commode chairs	Daily In between single patient use	Clean with hospital approved disinfectant	
Crash Carts	After use	Clean with hospital approved disinfectant and or sani-cloth	
Enteric feeding pumps	Daily	Wipe with sani-cloth	Send to med clinic before using with other patient
Glucose monitors	In between each patient use	Wipe with sani-cloth or alcohol wipes	
IV poles	In between each patient use and before going into	Clean with hospital approved disinfectant	
Bedside tables/trays	Daily In between each patient use and before going into	Clean with hospital approved disinfectant	
Patient lift equipment	Daily In between each patient use and before going into	Clean with hospital approved disinfectant	
Restraints	In between each patient use	Hand clean with hospital approved disinfectant	Label with unit and send to Housekeeping for cleaning
Posey Restraints	In between each patient use – in unit laundry machines	Place in mesh bag to prevent damage to the machines	Send to Housekeeping if soiled with body fluids
Thermometers	In between each patient use	Wipe with alcohol swab or sani-cloth after each patient use	
Walkers	In between each patient use and before putting into storage	Clean with hospital approved disinfectant	
Wheelchairs	In between each patient use and before putting into	Clean with hospital approved disinfectant	

** Items dedicated to patients in isolation or with contact precautions related to MRSA and other MDROs must be sterilized in the autoclave.