

SESLHD GUIDELINE COVER SHEET

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POSITION RESPONSIBLE FOR DOCUMENT	SESLHD Infection Prevention and Control Subcommittee seslhd-stginfectioncontrol@health.nsw.gov.au
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SUMMARY	This guideline outlines infection prevention and control principles with regard to the cleaning of non-critical equipment used in direct clinical care, to minimise the transmission of pathogenic organisms and infectious diseases within SESLHD facilities.

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**Infection Prevention and Control: Cleaning (Shared) Patient Care
Equipment**

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Section 1 - Background

The [CEC Infection Control Practice Handbook](#) (2020) states “*any reusable equipment and accessories that comes into contact with a patient must be processed in between use*”
Examples include equipment used for patient care, monitoring and activities of daily living.

Reports of outbreaks of multi resistant organisms (MROs) and viral gastroenteritis have suggested an association between inadequate patient care equipment cleaning and disinfection contributing to the transmission of healthcare associated infections within healthcare environments. Shared equipment that is used in direct patient care and assessment that comes into contact with intact skin can act as a vehicle for transmission of pathogenic organisms and transmissible infectious diseases.

Surveillance has shown that shared patient care equipment can become contaminated with multiple resistant organisms including Carbapenemase-Producing *Enterobacterales* (CPE), Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), and Vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE).

This guideline outlines the requirements for the cleaning and disinfection of shared non-critical equipment that is used between patients.

The aim of this guideline is to instruct staff on the cleaning and disinfection of shared non-critical reusable patient care equipment after use. This will assist in the reduction of healthcare associated infections and prevent the transmission of MROs and transmissible infectious diseases.

Section 2 - Principles

The overarching principle within SESLHD is to ensure that all shared non-critical patient equipment is cleaned and disinfected with a 2 in 1 step cleaning product after patient use with a TGA approved product, for example Clinell Universal Wipes.

EXCLUSIONS

1. These guidelines **do not** attempt to provide cleaning instructions for all shared non-critical equipment, rather it provides working examples.
2. Specialised units such Dialysis, Operating Theatres, Endoscopy, Haematology, Intensive Care and Neonatology Units have their own procedures for cleaning and/or disinfection of specific shared equipment.
3. Specialised equipment, that have specific documented manufacturer's instructions for cleaning and/or disinfection of shared patient equipment.
4. Specialised patient care equipment that is at risk of biofilm growth require individual risk assessment and a documented cleaning procedure

Section 3 - Definitions

This guideline is applicable to all healthcare workers (HCWs) within SESLHD that use or provide shared patient care equipment. Staff are required to follow manufacturer's instructions/procedures for the cleaning of specialised patient care equipment to ensure correct cleaning requirements are met and the equipment is not damaged by incompatible chemicals.

Term	Definition
Biofilm	Biofilms can be defined as communities of microorganisms attached to a surface.
Cleaning	The physical removal of soil and reduction in the number of microorganisms from a surface by a process such as washing in detergent. In order to decontaminate patient care equipment effectively, all organic debris (for example, blood, tissue and other body fluids) must be removed from the item during the cleaning process.
Disinfection	Reduction of the number of viable microorganisms on a product or item to a level previously specified as appropriate for its intended further handling or use.
Disinfectant wipe	A cleaning wipe that is impregnated with a neutral detergent and TGA approved hospital disinfectant to reduce contamination of non-critical equipment used in hospital environments.
Neutral detergent wipe	A cleaning wipe that is impregnated with a neutral detergent and is used to clean (i.e. reduce the number of microorganisms on a surface) from non-critical items.
Non-critical equipment	Any reusable equipment and accessories that comes into contact with a patient but does not involve mucous membranes or non-intact skin i.e.: commodes, vitals/observation equipment.
Semi-critical equipment	Semi-critical items that come into contact with mucous membranes or non-intact skin. Semi-critical items at a minimum require high-level disinfection.
Shared patient equipment	Equipment that is used on more than one patient or between patients.
Standard Precautions	Involves the use of safe work practices and protective barriers; and are designed to reduce the risk of transmission of micro-organisms from both recognised and unrecognised sources of infections in health organisations.
Terminal Clean	A process that involves cleaning and disinfection undertaken upon discharge or transfer of a patient where transmission based precautions were required i.e.: patient with a MRO or transmissible infectious disease This process also includes cleaning and disinfecting all shared patient care equipment.

Section 4 - Recommended best practice for common shared patient care equipment

4.1 General principles for cleaning shared patient care equipment

The following principles apply to all equipment used in the assessment and delivery of patient care within SESLHD

- Any non-critical reusable equipment that comes into contact with a patient must be cleaned and disinfected before it is reused on another patient. The HCW that uses the item is responsible for cleaning and disinfecting the item.
- All equipment must be cleaned and disinfected immediately if it becomes visibly soiled
- Equipment should have a smooth impervious surfaces that can be easily cleaned such as metal, plastic, vinyl and laminates
- Tape should not be applied to shared patient care equipment as they prevent adequate cleaning and disinfection.
- Appropriate risk assessments, including the review of manufacturers guidelines and cleaning recommendations prior to the purchase of consumables and equipment must be undertaken to ensure equipment is able to be cleaned and disinfected with an approved product.
- Only TGA approved/registered disinfectants are to be used within the healthcare environment.
- Cleaning and disinfection is still required if a cover has been used.
- Additional cleaning may be required in an outbreak situation. Procedures will be determined in consultation with the Infection Prevention and Control department or delegate.

Shared equipment used for direct patient care and assessment

The recommendations for the cleaning and disinfection of shared non-critical patient equipment (see Table 2) may differ depending on the type of infection control precautions implemented to care for the patient. i.e.: Standard Precautions or Transmission based Precautions (refer Table 1).

Cleaning and disinfection of shared non-critical patient equipment also must take into account of the risk rating of the unit and the patient cohort.

The overarching principle within SESLHD is to ensure all shared non-critical patient equipment is cleaned and disinfected before and after patient used.

The equipment listed in the following tables are common examples of shared non-critical patient equipment but are by no means exhaustive.

Table 1: Level of infection prevention and control precautions and type of cleaning required

Level of Precautions	Cleaning
Standard precautions:	Combined 2 in 1 Neutral Detergent and Disinfectant Wipe
Transmission based precautions:	Combined 2 in 1 Neutral Detergent and Disinfectant Wipe

Table 2: Common patient care equipment and cleaning requirements

Item	Frequency of cleaning	With (solution)	Responsibility	Comments
Arm rests/supports	As required	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes	All HCWs	If used paper or sheet covers are used, they must be changed after each patient use
Baby cots / cribs when in use	Daily and frequently touched surfaces beginning and end of shift	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes/or Detergent wipe <i>*please risk assess wipe choice will be dependent on patient risk factors</i>	HCW User	Consult with IPC if required
Breast pump	Before and after use	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes	HCW User/parent using equipment	
IV, Dressing or Procedure Trolley	Before and after use	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes	HCW User	
Workstation on wheels & eMed trolleys	Before and after use, before moving to another patient's bedspace or room	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes	HCW User	
Examination Couch	In between patients if a paper or sheet cover not used. At completion of a clinician's session.	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes	HCW User	If used paper or sheet covers are used, they must be changed after each patient use
Eye Examination equipment	Before and after patient use	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes	HCW User	Refer to local IPC for specific cleaning instructions

Section 4
Recommended best practice for common shared patient care equipment

Item	Frequency of cleaning	With (solution)	Responsibility	Comments
Glucometer	After use	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes	HCW User	
Terminal cleaning of humidity cribs	Change weekly	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes	HCW user	Consult with IPC for local departmental procedures
IV Stands	After use and daily	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes	HCW User	On discharge from isolation room(s), cleaned completed by cleaning services
Medication Trolley	Daily clean (main surface areas) Weekly (full clean)	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes	All HCWs	
Patient call bells	Daily	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes	Cleaning services	
Patient weigh scales	After use	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes	All HCWs Cleaning services	Cleaning services to also include in regular clinical area cleaning program
Plaster bowls	After use	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes	All HCWs	
PPE Trolley	Before and after use	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes	HCW User	
Splint pan	Daily at end of list	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes	All HCWs	
Stethoscope	Before and after patient use	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes	HCW User	
Urinary catheter or drain holder/bracket	After use	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes)	HCW User	

4.2 Biomedical Equipment

Table 3: Common biomedical equipment and cleaning requirements.

NB: For cleaning of specialised equipment including monitors, refer to manufacturing recommendations as well as Infection Prevention and Control advice.

Item	Frequency of cleaning	With (solution)	Responsibility	Comments
Mechanical ventilator CPAP Machines	Each shift and after use Follow manufacturer instructions Each shift	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes	HCW User	NOTE: Submerging wires and sensors with excessive moisture on cleaning cloths could damage the internal working mechanisms of the equipment, leading to corrosion and electrical shortages.
IV Infusion pump	Daily and after use	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes	HCW User	
Vital signs equipment	Before and after patient use	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes	HCW User	
Bladder scanner	Before and after patient use	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes	HCW User	
Cardiac Monitors	Each shift and on discharge	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes	HCW User	
Spirometer	Single patient use mouthpieces Machine to be wiped over between patients	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes	HCW User	

4.3 CPR Equipment including equipment used for training purposes

Table 4: Common CPR equipment and responsibility for cleaning

Item	Frequency of cleaning	With (solution)	Responsibility	Comments
Manikin body & clothing (Excluding face)	Following each training session	2 in 1 Detergent/Disinfectant Wipes	Trainers and trainees	Manikins to be kept in good condition & inspected for cracks & tears
Manikin faces & reusable masks. May be sent to CSSD for thermal disinfection	Follow manufacturers recommendations	2 in 1 Detergent/Disinfectant Wipes	Trainers and Trainees	
Laryngoscope handles	After use	2 in 1 Detergent/Disinfectant Wipes	HCW use	

4.4 Equipment related to patient hygiene

Table 5: Common equipment related to patient hygiene and cleaning requirements

Item	Frequency of cleaning	With (solution)	Responsibility	Comments
Bowls (Washing)	After Use	Use a washer disinfectant	HCW User	Check wash flushers and sanitiser for detergent requirements
Pans and Urinals	After Use	Use a washer disinfectant	HCW User	Check pan flushers and sanitiser for detergent requirements
Commodes & Shower Chairs	Before and After Use	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes	HCW User/ Cleaning services	Check underneath the seat and frame of chair for debris

4.5 Patient Physical Mobility Aids

Table 6: Common physical mobility items and cleaning requirements

Item	Frequency of cleaning	With (solution)	Responsibility	Comments
Wheelchairs	After use and in between patients	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes	HCW User	Note: equipment can be labelled and allocated to individual patients for their stay
Walking frames	After use and in between patients	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes	HCW User	
Walking sticks	After use and in between patients	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes	HCW User	

4.6 Manual Handling Equipment

Table 7: Common manual handling equipment and cleaning requirements

Item	Frequency of cleaning	With (solution)	Responsibility	Comments
Patient slide sheets/board	After use and in between patients	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes	HCW User	Material fabric slide sheets to be dedicated to one patient for the duration of their stay
Hoists	After use and in between patients	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes	HCW User	Remove sling and send to laundry
Fabric hoist slings and single patient use hoist slings	The fabric sling can be dedicated to one patient for the duration of their stay	Approved / accredited laundering service	HCW User	Fabrics hoist slings require laundering after use Note: check when slings require replacement

4.7 Rehabilitation and Gym Equipment

Table 8: Common rehabilitation and gym equipment

Item	Frequency of cleaning	With (solution)	Responsibility	Comments
Treadmill	Clean areas touched by patient after use Daily cleaning	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes	HCW User	Ask patients to perform hand hygiene prior to using equipment
Exercise Bike	Clean areas touched by patient after use Daily cleaning	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes	HCW User	Ask patients to perform hand hygiene prior to using equipment
Free Weights	Clean areas touched by patient after use Daily cleaning	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes	HCW User	Ask patients to perform hand hygiene prior to using equipment
Other Gym equipment	Clean areas touched by patient after use Daily cleaning	2 in 1 Detergent / Disinfectant Wipes	HCW User	Ask patient to perform hand hygiene prior to their gym program

4.8 Use of Neutral Detergents

The use of a neutral detergent solution and wipes is considered sufficient for the cleaning of low risk non-clinical hospital environments within SESLHD

Section 5 - Chemical disinfectants

5.1 The Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG)

Only disinfectants specified in the ARTG may be used by healthcare workers for disinfection and the disinfectant must only be used for the approved purpose.

Healthcare workers involved in the purchase or use of disinfectants must, prior to purchase, seek a copy of the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) “listing certificate” or “registration certificate”.

5.2 High Level and Chemical Disinfection for Reusable Patient Equipment

Decisions and consideration for higher level disinfection requirements should be made in consultation with Central Sterilising Services Departments and Infection Prevention and Control.

Section 6 - Loan patient care equipment

Reusable equipment that is used in direct patient care and assessment must undergo cleaning and disinfection prior to its initial use and after each patient use.

This applies to equipment loaned by sponsors and other health organisations or brought to a healthcare organisation by a healthcare worker.

Following use and before being returned all loan items must be cleaned and disinfected.

Cleaning of equipment prior to service or repair

All medical equipment must be cleaned and disinfected using approved 2 in 1 wipes prior to being sent for service or repair and on return from repairs.

Section 7 - Compliance evaluation

SESLHD IPC observational audit

Section 8 –

References

- [CEC Infection Prevention and Control Practice Handbook \(2020\)](#)
- [NSW Ministry of Health Policy Directive PD2023_025 - Infection Prevention and Control in Healthcare Settings](#)
- [NSW Ministry of Health Policy Directive PD2023_018 – Cleaning of the Healthcare Environment](#)
- [NHMRC Australian Guidelines for the Prevention of Infection in Healthcare \(2019\)](#)

Version and approval history

Date	Version	Version and approval notes
March 2014	0	Developed by SESLHD Infection Prevention and Control Committee: Infection Control Manual Working Party
September 2014	1	Endorsed by Clinical and Quality Council
May 2018	2	Reviewed by the SESLHD Infection Control Manual Working Party Minor review. Updated reference list, documented changed from CEC Infection Prevention and Control Practice Handbook; improved layout and duplications removed.
June 2018	2	Processed and published by District Executive Services.
3 July 2024	2.1	Minor review by the SESLHD Infection Control Sub-committee. Cleaning and disinfection recommendations updated. Updated reference list and links. Approved by SESLHD Infection Prevention and Control Committee and Executive Sponsor.