
Overview

This standard concerns the routine cleaning, disinfection and storage of re-usable non-invasive care equipment to minimise the risk of spreading infection. All staff in health and social care environments should receive training in cleaning, with or without disinfection of the care equipment they use but it should be clear who is responsible for this within each area or care setting. Cleaning and disinfecting are the terms that are used in this standard however in some areas the term 'decontamination' is used. 'Decontamination' is an umbrella term which incorporates cleaning, disinfecting and sterilising as appropriate. This standard covers activity in all health and social care environments, including community and domiciliary settings, and ambulance vehicles/stations, but excluding specialised settings, such as laboratories, pharmacies, or operating theatres, where more specialised methods may be required.

Users of this standard will need to communicate effectively to meet individuals' needs and wishes and work in line with health and safety legislation, policy and practices.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

P1. identify and agree the roles and responsibilities of yourself and others in minimising the risk of spreading infection by cleaning, disinfection and storing care equipment

P2. identify and minimise hazards and risk in the workplace

P3. perform effective hand hygiene before and on completion of the activity in accordance with organisational procedures

P4. inspect the care equipment before use, and ensure it is clean

P5. assess what cleaning, with or without disinfection, is required, and choose the appropriate agent and equipment

P6. gather the cleaning, and if required disinfection, agent and equipment and put on the appropriate personal protective equipment before commencing

P7. clean the care equipment according to the type of equipment, manufacturer's instructions and workplace procedures

P8. use disinfectant safely where this is required as part of the cleaning process

P9. assess the state of repair of care equipment during cleaning, remove any equipment immediately that is not fit for use in accordance with workplace procedures

P10. report and replace any item that is damaged in line with workplace procedures

P11. ensure care equipment is stored in a clean, designated place in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and workplace procedures

P12. discard single use equipment and personal protective equipment in accordance with workplace procedures

P13. return cleaning and disinfection agents to safe storage, following regulations and guidance concerning hazardous substances, health and safety guidance and the manufacturer's instructions

P14. ensure your cleaning and disinfection equipment is clean, fit for purpose, in a

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good state of repair, and is stored in a clean designated place

P15. complete all relevant documentation required for minimising the risk of spreading infection by cleaning, disinfection and storing care equipment

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1. the current legislation, guidelines, policies, workplace procedures and protocols which are relevant to your work practice and to which you must adhere
- K2. the scope and limitations of your own competence, responsibilities and accountability as it applies to your job role
- K3. specific procedures for reporting issues which are beyond your competence, responsibilities and accountability
- K4. the hazards and risks which may arise during the execution of your work role and how you can minimise these
- K5. the chain of infection
- K6. how to access facilities for hand hygiene and the effective techniques for maintaining hand hygiene
- K7. how to assess what cleaning, with or without disinfection, is required, and how to choose the appropriate agent and equipment
- K8. the appropriate personal protective equipment to use when cleaning equipment and how to safely put on, remove and dispose of it in line with workplace procedures
- K9. who is responsible for cleaning equipment
- K10. when disinfectant is to be used as part of the cleaning process
- K11. the cleaning schedules for deep and routine cleaning
- K12. the uses, dilutions, methods of application, storage and disposal of cleaning, and disinfectant products
- K13. how to distinguish between single-use and reusable equipment and/or personal protective equipment and how to dispose, launder, clean, disinfect and store them safely
- K14. how to escalate decontamination failure incidents that may require investigation

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K15. how to complete and safely store all relevant documentation in accordance with workplace requirements

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