Routine Cleaning and Disinfection Protocol

Daily recommendations should be followed at least once to twice daily in 24-hour facilities. The listed disinf ectant recommendations are the opinions of the authors and are intended for the general hospital. Higher-level disinfection may be necessary in isolation units or if contamination with specific pathogens is suspected. Visible debris should be removed before disinfection. A cleaning log is recommended to track when solutions are changed and weekly/monthly tasks are performed. Solutions must be changed according to stability times to prevent disinfectant resistance.

Flooring
Floors
• Remove visible debris with broom or dust mop.
• Change mop head.
• Generate fresh disinfectant solution for mopping at the start of each day.
  — Change solution when visibly soiled.
  — Change solution and mop head again at end of day for final mopping.
• Reusable mop heads should be laundered in 1000 ppm (1:50) bleach on hot water cycle (>160°F).

Disinfectant: ________________________
(Bleach, phenolic, or peroxygen compounds are recommended.)
Add _______ mL disinfectant per gallon of water.

Floor Drains
• Remove and thoroughly scrub the drain cover, then disinfect it with bleach.
• Flush the drain with copious amounts of water to ensure the trap is full.
• Scrub the walls of the drain, disinfect with bleach, and allow sufficient contact time before use.

Disinfectant: **Bleach 5.25%** (72 mL/gal of water)
Contact time: **10 min**

Surface Disinfection
Examination/Treatment Tables
• Clean with disinfectant solution between patients.
• Disinfect fully once daily or after patients with suspected infectious disease. Allow disinfectant to dry for full contact time.

Disinfectant: ________________________
(Phenolic, chlorhexidine, 1:50 bleach, or peroxygen compounds are recommended.)
Add _______ mL disinfectant per gallon of water.
Contact time needed: ____________________ min

High-Contact Areas
• Disinfect telephones, keyboards, computer mouse, light switches/handles, doorknobs, cabinet handles and doors, etc., weekly or when visibly soiled.
• In patient care areas or high traffic areas, disinfect twice weekly or when contamination is suspected.

Disinfectant: ________________________
(Phenolic, chlorhexidine, alcohol, or peroxygen compounds are recommended; alcohol is useful for telephones and keyboards.)
Add _______ mL disinfectant per gallon of water.

Patient Cages and Runs
• Disinfect between patients; be sure cage is well cleaned before disinfection.
• Apply disinfectant to floor, walls, ceiling, door, and latch. Allow sufficient contact time, then wipe clean.
• Remove and thoroughly scrub cage doors once weekly or after patients with contagious disease.

Disinfectant: ________________________
(Phenolic, chlorhexidine, 1:50 bleach, or peroxygen compounds are recommended.)
Add _______ mL disinfectant per gallon of water.
Contact time needed: ____________________ min

Walls and Cabinets
• Disinfect walls in contact with patients (areas where patients may be kept) daily.
• Inspect low-contact walls in patient areas daily for contamination and damage to protective surface. Disinfect and repair as needed.

Disinfectant: ________________________
(Chlorhexidine, phenolic, 1:500 bleach, or peroxygen compounds are recommended.)
Add _______ mL disinfectant per gallon of water.
Contact time needed: ____________________ min
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**Equipment**

**Stethoscopes**
- Disinfect daily or if contamination is suspected.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disinfectant: <strong>Ethanol 60%–80%</strong> or <strong>isopropanol 70%–90%</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact time: Wipe down completely after each use and allow 10 to 15 min of drying time before use on the next patient.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Scrub Containers/Cold Sterile Trays**
- Use sponge tongs for removal to minimize contamination of solutions by hands.
- Sterilize any instruments in cold sterile trays weekly.
- Change cold sterile solutions based on hospital use. Solutions should be changed weekly unless high-volume practices should consider changing every 2 to 3 days.
- Clean and sterilize scrub containers and cold sterile trays weekly.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Sterilant: ________________________</th>
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<tr>
<td>(Depending on material being sterilized, ethylene oxide gas or autoclave is recommended.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact time: Manufacturer’s recommendation ________ min/h</td>
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</table>

**Food/Water Bowls**
- Use dishwasher to disinfect bowls between patients (>160°F with commercial detergent).
- If bowls are contaminated with a specific pathogen, disinfect before dishwasher cleaning.

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<td>(Phenolic, 1:50 bleach, or peroxygen compounds are recommended.)</td>
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<td>Add ____________ mL disinfectant per gallon of water.</td>
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<td>Contact time needed: ____________ min</td>
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**Laundry**
- Dirty linens should be held in leakproof containers at the point of use and carried to the laundry area in those containers (garbage bags are recommended).
- Wear gloves when handling dirty linens.
- Sort laundry in the laundry area.
- Keep surgical linens separate from other linens.
- Wash linens in hot water cycle (>160°F for 25 min) with disinfectant.
- Linens must be dried after washing and not allowed to stand overnight.

<table>
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<th>Disinfectant: <strong>Bleach 5.25%</strong> diluted 1:50 (72 mL/gal of water)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Add ____________ mL disinfectant per load.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Refer to washing machine owner’s manual for gallons per load and multiply this number by mL disinfectant per gallon to obtain mL disinfectant per load.)</td>
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**Litter Pans**
- Disinfect between each patient.

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<td>(Phenolic, chlorhexidine, 1:500 bleach, or peroxygen compounds are recommended.)</td>
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<td>Add ____________ mL disinfectant per gallon of water.</td>
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<td>Contact time needed: ____________ min</td>
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**Clipper Blades, Otoscopes, and Laryngoscopes**
- Clean blade with brush while running; ensure removal of debris.
- Disinfect between each patient and at end of day.

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<td>(Chlorhexidine, phenolic, or peroxygen compounds are recommended depending on equipment; manufacturer’s recommendations should be consulted first.)</td>
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<td>Add ____________ mL disinfectant per gallon of water.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Contact time needed: ____________ min</td>
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**IV Pumps**
- Disinfect keypad and handles (areas touched during patient care) between each patient.

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<th>Disinfectant: <strong>Isopropanol 70%–90%</strong> or <strong>ethanol 60%–80%</strong></th>
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<td>Contact time needed: <strong>15 min</strong></td>
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