

Section: UTMB On-line Documentation Subject: Infection Control & Healthcare Epidemiology Policies and Procedures	01.05.06 - Policy
Topic: 01.05.06 – Cleaning, Disinfection and Storage of Noncritical Patient Care Equipment	5/22/25 - Revised 1981- Author

01.05.06 - Cleaning, Disinfection and Storage of Noncritical Patient Care Equipment

Purpose	To provide clean equipment for patient care. To define the responsibility for cleaning, disinfecting, and storage of noncritical patient care equipment. Spaulding classification system will be used to identify the cleaning and reprocessing of the reusable medical devices referred to as non-critical items within this policy. Spaulding classification categories are “critical, “semi-critical,” and “noncritical.”
Audience	All those in the UTMB Health System who clean, disinfect, or use noncritical patient care equipment
Policy	All patient care devices and other items will be cleaned, reprocessed, and stored according to these policies.
Definitions	<p>Non-critical Items are medical devices that come in contact with intact skin, but not mucous membranes only need cleaning or low-level disinfection. Examples include blood pressure cuffs, stethoscopes, blood glucose meters, etc.</p> <p>Manufacturer Instructions for Use (MIFU) are detailed, step-by-step guides provided by the manufacturer to explain how a product, especially medical devices, should be used and handled. They outline the correct procedures for use, including cleaning, disinfection, and other safety precautions. MIFUs ensure the product is used safely and effectively, while also addressing potential hazards and ensuring compliance with legal and regulatory standards.</p> <p>Disinfection is a process that eliminates pathogenic microorganisms on inanimate objects with the exception of bacterial spores. EPA-registered disinfections and approved per manufacture instructions for use (MIFU) will be used for noncritical devices and equipment according to directions on the product labeling, including, but not limited to indication, specified use-dilution, contact time, and method of application.</p>
General Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning should occur immediately after use, whether visibly soiled or not, and between patient use following the MIFU cleaning steps. • The space designated for storage of clean mobile equipment may vary within the building, unit, or department. Some equipment is stored on the unit and/or in a clinical department and while other shared equipment is returned to the responsible department for cleaning and storage. The guiding principle is that clean equipment will be managed so that staff in the area can readily distinguish clean equipment ready for patient use from equipment that has not been cleaned. • Clean equipment is stored separately from used equipment, either in a clean utility room or in a designated area (e.g., alcove) in the patient care unit. Designated areas may have signage indicating that only clean equipment is to be stored there.

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- If a clean equipment room is available, only clean, patient-ready equipment may be placed in that room.
- If a clean equipment room or designated area is not available, clean equipment may be identified by a “bag or tag” method or by use of linens (stretchers).
- For equipment used in the care of a patient in Extended Contact Precautions and Extremely Drug-Resistant (XDRO) Precautions, equipment will be disinfected with a 1:10 bleach solution (pre-diluted Clorox) which is left on for 5 minutes and is followed by another application of bleach solution that is left on for 5 minutes. *See policy 01.43 Prevention and Control of Clostridioides difficile and policy 01.22 Control of Multi-Drug Resistant Organisms (MDRO) for details.*
- **Note:** Chlorine bleach is considered an intermediate-level disinfectant

Acceptable Disinfectants

- Manufacturer’s instructions for use (MIFU) must be followed when selecting a cleaning or disinfection method for noncritical equipment.
- Disinfectants must be approved by Infection Control & Healthcare Epidemiology and approved by the EPA as a hospital-grade disinfectant. *See Appendix: UTMB Health Cleaning Guide*
- EPA-registered disinfectants require a dwell (contact) time as prescribed by the product label from the manufacturer including, not limited to, indications, specified-use dilution, contact time and method of application. During this time a disinfectant must remain visibly wet on a surface to effectively kill germs, viruses and other pathogens.

References











1. Centers for Disease Control Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare Facilities, 2008 (updated June 2024)
2. Centers for Disease Control Guide to Infection Prevention for Outpatient Settings Version 2.3 – September 2016

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Appendix

UTMB Health Cleaning Guideline

Check manufacturer's instructions for use (IFUs) to ensure product compatibility.
Know your cleaning products wet time that is located on the product.

*General Cleaning: cleaning of surfaces including, but not limited to: countertops, workspace areas, IV poles, supply carts, bedside commodes, bed extenders, cots, Maximode lift, fans, med station (Pyxis), monitor boxes with cords (EKG, BP, Pulse ox), rapid infuser, breast pumps, code carts, blanket warmer, clothes/dryer (outside), furnishings (non-ICU patient rooms), Biliblanket (NICU), Bililights (NICU)					
 *PDI Super Sani Cloth Wet Time: 2 min	 *PDI Sani Cloth Bleach Wet Time: 4 min	 *PDI Prime Wipes Wet Time: 1 min	 PDI Sani Cloth Plus Wet Time: 3 min	 PDI Sani-Cloth AF3 (Grey) Wet Time: 3 min	 PDI Easy Screen/Alcohol Wipes Wet Time: >1 min
 *Cavi 1 Wipes Wet Time: 1 min	 Cavicide Wipes Wet Time: 3 min		 *Clorox Bleach Germicidal Wipes Wet Time: 3 min	 Pre-diluted Clorox (1:10 bleach solution) Wet Time: 5 min	
Specialty Equipment: Equipment not listed under general cleaning may require special cleaning wipes other than those used for general cleaning. Please check the <i>manufacturer's instruction for use</i> of both the equipment and disinfectant wipes.					
Equipment	Cleaner/Disinfectant after every use			Wet Time	
Baxter (Sigma) IV Pumps	Clorox Bleach Wipes, PDI Sanicloth Bleach, PDI Super Sani Cloth (purple lid)			Clorox Bleach Wipes: 3 min PDI Sani-Cloth Bleach: 4 min PDI Super Sani: 2 min	
Accu-Check: Glucometer	Clorox Bleach Wipes, PDI Super Sani Cloth (purple)			Clorox Bleach Wipes: 3 min PDI Super Sani: 2 min	
Bladder Scanner: Verathon Prime & BVI 9400 Dopplers	PDI Super Sani Cloth (purple lid) CaviWipes			PDI Super Sani: 2 min CaviWipes: 3 min	
Glidescope	PDI Super Sani Cloth (purple lid) PDI Sani-Cloth Bleach PDI Sani-Cloth AF3 (Grey lid) Cavi-1 Wipes			PDI Super Sani: 2 min PDI Sani-Cloth Bleach: 4 min PDI AF3 (Grey)-3 minutes Cavi-1 Wipes-1 min	
Site-Rite 8 Probe	PDI Super Sani Cloth (Purple lid) CaviWipes Cavi-1 Wipes Clorox Bleach Wipes			PDI Super Sani: 2 min CaviWipes: 3 min Cavi-1 Wipes: 1 min Clorox Bleach: 3 min	
Vital Signs Machine: Philips Capsule	ALL- Alcohol Wipes/Spray (70%)- Spray on cloth to clean Alcohol Wipes/Spray PDI Super Sani Cloth (Purple lid) PDI Sani Cloth Plus (Red lid) Clorox Bleach Wipes Cavicide			Alcohol Wipe/Spray: 1 minute PDI Super Sani: 2 min PDI Sani Cloth Plus: 3 minutes Clorox Bleach Wipes: 3 min Cavicide: 3 minutes	
Ultrasound Probes/Machines-check IFU	PDI Sani Cloth Plus (Red lid) PDI Sani-Cloth AF3 (Grey lid)			PDI Sani Cloth Plus -3 min PDI Sani-Cloth AF3 -3 min	
Toys (Refer to 01.36 - Toys, Dolls, and Teaching Aids for more detail)	Alcohol Wipes/Spray (70%)- Spray alcohol on cloth to clean			Alcohol Wipe/Spray: 1 minute	