01.36 Toys, Dolls, and Teaching Aids

Purpose
To prevent the transmission of infectious diseases via toys, dolls, and various teaching aids by cleaning and disinfecting them between uses by different patients.

Audience
All employees of UTMB hospitals, clinics, Victory Lakes outpatient specialty care and surgical center, contract workers, volunteers, and students who work with patients who may come in contact with toys and various teaching aids.

Policy
- Toys and teaching aids used in the hospital and clinics should be patient specific, if possible
- Toys and teaching aids that are not patient specific should be made of materials that can be cleaned and then decontaminated with an antiseptic
- Surfaces of toys and teaching aids should be cleaned and then wiped with alcohol after use by each child and at least daily. Cleaning of toys, dolls, and teachings aids should be documented daily.
- Children should have limited exposure to toys and teaching aids that cannot be decontaminated
- Children should wash and disinfect their hands prior to touching a toy that cannot be decontaminated (with soap and water followed by alcohol rinse or with an anti-microbial soap)
- Children should wear a gown if they are going to hold a toy that cannot be decontaminated. If gloves are available, they should also be worn by the child
- Toys that cannot be decontaminated should not be taken into isolation rooms
- If a toy, doll or teaching aid becomes visibly soiled, remove from service and refer to manufacturer guidelines for cleaning instructions or contact the Department of Healthcare Epidemiology for further guidelines
- Daily cleaning and disinfection of dolls, toys and teaching aids must be documented by date, time and name of the toy, doll or teaching aid.