

## Decontamination of Equipment Audit Tool for Care Homes

In order to comply with the *Health and Social Care Act 2008: Code of Practice on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance* equipment (including medical devices) that comes into contact with the resident, e.g. wheelchairs, blood glucose meters, nebulisers, hoists, must be decontaminated appropriately between use on another resident. There should be a designated lead person for the decontamination of equipment who ensures standards of cleanliness are maintained

### Action

- Staff should carry out monthly audits using this audit tool to assess the standard of cleanliness of equipment.
- We would recommend that there should be documented evidence that stored equipment has been decontaminated and is within 1 month of the date when it was cleaned, e.g. "I am clean" indicator tape.
- In the event of non-compliance, action plans should be produced and review regularly.
- Completed audit tools should be kept locally for good practice assurance and as evidence for CQC requirements.

Decontamination of equipment should be undertaken in accordance with the organisation's Infection Prevention and Control Policy.

### Methods of decontamination

**Cleaning:** Any equipment that has been in contact with intact skin should be cleaned with a detergent wipe or detergent and warm water using a disposable cloth and dried using disposable paper towelling. Cleaning with detergent should always be undertaken before equipment is disinfected to ensure that disinfection is effective.

**Note:** some chlorine-based disinfectants, e.g. Chlor-Clean, Actichlor Plus, contain both detergent and 1,000 ppm chlorine, this means equipment does not need to be cleaned before disinfection.

**Disinfection:** Any equipment that has been in contact with non-intact skin, body fluids or a service user with an infection, should be disinfected with an appropriate disinfectant that is bactericidal and virucidal, e.g. Milton at a dilution of **1,000 ppm** (dilution of 1 in 20, e.g. 50 mls Milton in 1 litre of water). On small items of equipment, alcohol 70% wipes can be used after cleaning first with a detergent wipe. Alcohol wipes must not be used to disinfect equipment used on a resident with *Clostridium difficile* or suspected viral gastroenteritis as it will not be effective.

Any equipment in contact with blood/blood stained body fluids should first be disinfected with an appropriate disinfectant, e.g. Milton **10,000 ppm** (dilution of 1 in 2, e.g. 100 mls Milton in 200 mls of water), followed by a detergent wipe or detergent and warm water and dried using paper towelling.

Audit completed by: .....

Job title: .....

Premises audited: .....

Date: .....

Question		Yes	No	N/A	Comments
1.	Staff are aware of how to access the Infection Control Policy on Decontamination of equipment.				
2.	Detergent wipes or detergent and warm water, disposable cloth and paper towelling, are available for the cleaning of equipment.				
3.	An appropriate chlorine-based disinfectant is available, e.g. Milton, for the disinfection of equipment.				
4.	A fresh solution of disinfectant is made up every 24 hours and marked with the date and time of preparation.				
5.	Equipment is decontaminated in a designated area or away from clean items of equipment.				
6.	Hands are washed with liquid soap and warm running water before and after decontaminating equipment.				
7.	Disposable gloves and apron are worn when decontaminating equipment.				
8.	Eye protection, e.g. goggles, are worn if there is a risk of splashing to the eyes when decontaminating equipment.				
9.	Staff are aware that equipment should be decontaminated starting from the top and working downwards.				
10.	There is documented evidence that equipment stored or not currently used by a resident has been decontaminated.				
11.	<p>Equipment that has been decontaminated is clean, free from dust, dirt and body fluid stains, and is within one month of the date written when last decontaminated.</p> <p><i>Staff should check 5 commodes and 5 other items of equipment. All items should be clean and free from dust, dirt or body fluid stains. Details of the equipment checked should be documented, commodes checked should include the room number or name of residents. All items must be clean to score a 'Yes'.</i></p>				<p>Items of equipment checked:</p> <p>1. ....</p> <p>2. ....</p> <p>3. ....</p> <p>4. ....</p> <p>5. ....</p> <p>6. ....</p> <p>7. ....</p> <p>8. ....</p> <p>9. ....</p> <p>10. ....</p>
12.	Equipment is in a good condition, e.g. no rust, label residue or damage which would prevent effective cleaning.				
13.	Staff can describe the symbol used to indicate 'single use' items.				
14.	Staff are aware that 'single use' items should not be re-used.				
15.	Staff are aware that 'single patient use' items, e.g. nebulisers, oxygen masks can be re-used on the same resident but not on any other resident.				