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Infection Control Manual			
	Policy Name	Environmental Services	
	Policy Number	IC 0020	
	Date this Version Effective	October 2017	
HEALTH CARE	Responsible for Content	Hospital Epidemiology	

# I. Description

Describes the cleaning and decontamination of the hospital environment to reduce the risk of infection for patients and personnel

# **Table of Contents**

I.	Description	1
II.	DescriptionRationale	1
III.	Policy	1
	A. Personnel	1
	B. Routine Cleaning	
	C. Spills of Blood, Other Potentially Infectious Substances (OPIM) and Broken Glass	
	D. Care, Cleaning, and Storage of Equipment	
	E. Selection and Use of Supplies	
	F. Assessing Effectiveness of Surface Disinfection	
	G. Policy Implementation	
IV.	. References	
V.	Reviewed/Approved by	9
	Policy Revision Dates	
	Appendix 1: Environmental Services Department Service Level Agreements	
	Appendix 2: 7- Step Cleaning Method	

# II. Rationale

The hospital environment becomes contaminated with pathogenic microorganisms during the course of providing patient care. Appropriate cleaning and decontamination reduces the risk of infection from the inanimate environment.

## III. Policy

#### A. Personnel

- Hand hygiene will be performed in accordance with the <u>Infection Control Policy IC0024:</u> <u>Hand Hygiene and Use of Antiseptics for Skin Preparation</u>. Personnel shall adhere to the dress code of the hospital.
- 2. Personnel shall adhere to the guidelines found in Infection Control Policy 0040: Occupational Health Services (OHS). Personnel shall adhere to the <u>Infection Control Policy IC 0021: Exposure Control Plan for Bloodborne Pathogens</u> and the <u>Infection Control Policy IC0060: Tuberculosis Control Plan</u>. Personnel should report all needlestick and/or sharps, mucous membrane, and nonintact skin exposures from blood and other potentially infectious materials to OHS by calling the Needlestick Hotline at 984-974-4480. Exposed employees should also complete an incident report.
- 3. Personnel should adhere to all personnel guidelines in the <u>Infection Control Policy IC0030:</u> Infection Control Guidelines for Adult and Pediatric Inpatient Care.
- 4. Personnel should adhere to all personnel guidelines in the <u>Infection Control Policy IC0031:</u> Isolation Precautions.

IC 0020 Page 1 of 11

- 5. Drinking, eating, applying cosmetics or lip balm, and handling contact lenses are prohibited in work areas when there is reasonable likelihood of occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens (e.g., no drinks on housekeeping cart).
- 6. Infection control education, which includes OSHA-required Bloodborne Pathogens and Tuberculosis training, is provided initially upon employment and completed annually via the Learning Made Simple System (LMS).

# **B.** Routine Cleaning

- Cleaning of the hospital environment is outlined in service agreements between Environmental Services (ES) and hospital departments. The elements of the service level agreements for Patient Rooms and for Clinics, Outpatient and Patient-related Areas are included in Appendix 1.
- 2. Use of an EPA registered disinfectant will be as follows:
  - a. Soil and dust will be removed from surfaces with a clean cloth and approved EPAregistered disinfectant with a minimum one minute wet contact time.
  - b. The dilution for the EPA registered disinfectants must be prepared according to the manufacturer's instructions as indicated on the product label.
  - c. For quality control purposes to ensure minimal effective concentration, any cleaning solution mixed on site should be tested daily per manufacturer's recommendations with the appropriate test strip and the results documented.
  - d. The cleaned surface should appear visibly wet for at least one minute.
  - e. Mixed disinfectant solutions will be replaced with fresh solution frequently (e.g., every 3 rooms or within 60 minute intervals). When using cloths containing EPA-registered disinfectants (e.g., Oxivir TB, Sani-Cloths), cloths should be changed whenever visibly soiled or when no longer sufficiently wetting surfaces for at least minute. Separate cleaning cloths should be used in each patient's restroom.

# 3. Daily Cleaning of Inpatient Rooms

- a. Rooms of individual patients will be cleaned daily as described below using the 7-step method (see Appendix 2).
  - Prior to cleaning each patient room, hand hygiene should be performed and new gloves used.
  - ii. Cleaning should proceed from the cleanest to the dirtiest areas (e.g., the bathroom will be cleaned last followed by the floor).
  - iii. If patient's personal items are stored on surfaces to be cleaned (e.g. on the window sill or over bed table), clean as much of the surface as possible without touching the personal items. Whenever possible, ask the patient or the patient's family to move the items so cleaning may be accomplished.
  - iv. Damp wipe with an EPA-registered disinfectant all touchable/hand contact surfaces below shoulder level, including furniture such as over bed and bedside tables, bed rails, telephone (especially ear and mouthpiece), chairs, the room's doorknob or door handle, and the sill and frame of window. Use glass cleaner to clean interior glass.

IC 0020 Page 2 of 11

v. Bed rails should be cleaned daily. In some settings (e.g., ICUs) it may be necessary to obtain nursing approval and/or supervision prior to cleaning an occupied bed.

## vi. Bathroom

- Surfaces to be cleaned include handwashing facilities, railings next to the toilet and all parts of the toilet, including the flush handle. The brush used by Environmental Services to clean toilets should be changed periodically (e.g., monthly), when heavily soiled, when no longer intact, or after use in an Enteric Precautions room.
- Clean tub/shower facilities if used during the previous 24 hours.
- Refill towel, toilet tissue, and soap dispensers.
- Vinyl shower curtains are checked daily and cleaned when visibly soiled or replaced as needed.
- vii. The walls and closet exterior will be checked daily and spot cleaned as necessary.
- viii. Mold growth or discoloration on walls and ceiling tiles should be reported to the ES supervisor who should contact Plant Engineering.
- ix. The floor (with special attention to the corners) will be damp mopped daily with a microfiber mop. This includes mopping under and behind furniture and doors and in the bathroom. The microfiber mop head is changed between each patient room.
- x. The sharps container will be checked daily, removed when ¾ full, locked, and the locked container discarded in the regulated medical waste container (red bag). This is a shared responsibility with nursing staff.
- xi. The trash receptacles will be emptied daily and as needed and are damp wiped weekly and if visibly soiled. When pulling trash, gloves must be removed and hand hygiene performed between each patient room.
- xii. Check cubicle curtains, remove if visibly soiled and replace with clean cubicle curtains.

## b. Weekly Cleaning

- i. For long term patients (those staying >7 days) and patients who infrequently get out of bed, Environmental Services and Nursing Service will coordinate activities so more extensive cleaning may be completed on a weekly basis. This coordination is necessary because high dusting should not be done when people are present in the room and cleaning occupied beds in some areas (e.g., ICUs) should be done with nursing approval and/or supervision as the patient's condition allows.
- ii. The following items will be damp wiped with disinfectant at least weekly:
  - Everything above shoulder level, including vents, lights, blinds, and television.
     This cleaning includes the patient's bathroom. Ceilings and walls are spot cleaned as needed.
  - Mold growth or discoloration on walls and ceiling tiles should be reported to the ES supervisor who should contact Plant Engineering.
  - Bed frame and other areas of the bed that have not been accessible for daily cleaning.
  - The trash receptacles will be cleaned weekly and when visibly soiled.

IC 0020 Page 3 of 11

iii. For surfaces that have not been cleaned daily because the patient's personal items are in the way: coordinate with the patient's nurse or the unit nurse manager to have these items moved or taken home by the patient's family so cleaning may be accomplished.

# c. Discharge Cleaning

- i. Includes everything listed above in daily and weekly cleaning. Those items inaccessible previously will be cleaned at discharge.
- ii. Items to be thoroughly cleaned at discharge include previously inaccessible parts of the bed, the mattress, pillow (if reusable), the interior of the cabinets, closet and dresser, tops of monitors, EKG cables, TV, wall mounted blood pressure cuffs, mobile blood pressure machines that remain in the patient room upon discharge, thermometers, and computer keyboard mouse and touch screen (if applicable) with an EPA registered disinfectant. Computer touch screens should be cleaned according to manufacturer recommendations.
- iii. The mattress should be inspected for tears and if any are found, the charge nurse must be informed.
- iv. Spot clean walls and ceilings as necessary with an EPA registered disinfectant.
- v. Mold growth or discoloration on walls and ceiling tiles should be reported to the ES supervisor who should contact Plant Engineering.
- vi. Privacy curtains are changed routinely every 3 months or when visibly soiled. During terminal cleaning, frequently touched surfaces of the curtains should be sprayed with an approved germicide (e.g. Accelerated hydrogen peroxide).
- vii. Vinyl shower curtains are cleaned when visibly soiled or replaced as needed.
- viii. Inspect vents for dust accumulation and clean exterior as indicated. If dust is noted above the vent surface, notify ES supervisor to ask Plant Engineering to have cleaned.
- d. Cleaning of Isolation Precautions Patient Rooms
  - Daily, weekly and terminal cleaning procedures are the same as for non-isolation rooms, except for the following additional guidelines for Enteric Precautions listed below.
  - ii. Dust Mopping is not done in isolation rooms. Damp mopping is performed daily.
  - iii. For Contact Precautions rooms:
    - When rooms are being terminally cleaned, leave clean trash can liners on the housekeeping cart until the room is completely cleaned and personal protective equipment (gown and gloves) have been removed and hands washed. Then place clean liners in trash receptacles in the room and perform hand hygiene. All cleaning items which are anticipated to be used in the room should be assembled prior to entry, otherwise, personnel needing to leave the room or return to the cart outside the room must remove gloves and gown, wash hands, re-glove, and re-gown upon reentering the room.
  - iv. When cleaning has been completed:
    - Using EPA registered disinfectant, wipe down anything that went into the isolation room before placing back on cleaning cart.

IC 0020 Page 4 of 11

- Remove isolation gown and gloves and perform hand hygiene inside the patient room.
- Remove trash and go directly to deposit area.

#### v. For Enteric Precautions rooms:

Surface disinfection of the patient room and bathroom will be done once per day and during terminal cleaning, using a bleach-containing EPA registered disinfectant or a 1:10 dilution of household bleach (sodium hypochlorite) and water (9 parts water, 1 part bleach, expires in 30 days) The brush used by ES to clean toilets should be discarded after each bathroom cleaning.

#### 4. Ice Machines

a. The exterior surfaces of ice dispenser machines should be cleaned on a weekly basis to prevent mold accumulation. Surfaces should be cleaned with an EPA-registered disinfectant or bleach and water. Weekly cleaning is to include the exterior surface of the water dispenser, the tray beneath the water and ice dispenser, and the internal and external surfaces of the ice and water chutes.

#### 5. Waste Removal

- a. White plastic bag liners displaying a BIOHAZARD label are utilized for collection of solid waste in patient rooms. These bags are closed and securely tied upon removal.
- b. Solid waste generated in patient rooms will be picked up daily or at additional times as needed.
- c. When pulling trash, gloves must be removed and hand hygiene performed between each patient room
- d. The wastebasket will be cleaned at time of patient discharge, weekly, and when visibly soiled with an EPA registered disinfectant. A clean plastic liner bag will be placed in the wastebasket daily.
- e. Regulated medical waste must be collected and stored in a secure area. Large waste containers with visible BIOHAZARD labels are located in the soiled utility rooms for disposal of regulated medical waste. These containers are lined with a red biohazard plastic bag. When full, the containers are removed and replaced with new containers.

#### 6. Linen Removal

- a. All linen is handled as little as possible and is treated as potentially infectious.
- b. All linen will be bagged in fluid resistant linen bags and placed in soiled laundry cart or laundry chute by nursing or environmental services staff.
- 7. Other Patient Care Related Areas (e.g., nursing stations, medication rooms, examination rooms, procedure rooms, rest rooms, specialized units such as Hemodialysis, Radiology, laboratories, Cardiac Cath, Ambulatory Procedures Center, utility rooms, clinics, Occupational Health, Radiology, EKG, EEG, Peripheral Vascular Lab, corridors, and other areas not specifically identified).

## a. Daily Cleaning

i. Damp wipe with approved EPA registered disinfectant all touchable/hand contact surfaces below shoulder level, including countertops, furniture, countertops, telephones, exterior surfaces of Pyxis machines, wall mounted work stations located in corridors, etc. If items on countertops interfere with daily cleaning, coordinate with the unit's manager to have the items moved so cleaning may be accomplished.

IC 0020 Page 5 of 11

- ii. Clean sinks and fixtures with EPA registered disinfectant.
- iii. Clean restrooms. Bathroom surfaces to be cleaned include fixtures, handwashing facilities, all parts of the toilet, and tub/shower facilities. The brush used to clean toilets should be changed periodically (e.g., monthly), when heavily soiled or when no longer intact.
- iv. Check and refill towel, toilet tissue and soap dispensers.
- v. Spot clean fronts of cabinets, doors, walls and glass.
- vi. Empty waste containers daily and as needed.
- vii. Privacy curtains are changed routinely every 3 months or when visibly soiled. Change cubicle curtains on a routine basis and when visibly soiled.
- viii. The floor will be damp mopped daily with a microfiber mop and EPA registered disinfectant. The microfiber mop head is changed between each room and after use in rest rooms.
- ix. Check vinyl shower curtains and clean or change when visibly soiled.

## b. Weekly Cleaning

- i. Clean and damp wipe everything above shoulder level, including ceiling, vents, lights, and blinds. Spot clean walls and ceilings.
- ii. Damp wipe exam tables, windowsills, shelves, countertops and other items not cleaned during routine daily cleaning.
- iii. Clean waste receptacles when visibly soiled.
- iv. Clean laundry chute intake openings.
- v. Clean computer keyboard, mouse, touch screens (if applicable), including COWs (Computer on Wheels).
- vi. Wipe down all areas of the code carts which are accessible.
- vii. Frequently touched surfaces of the cubical curtains should be sprayed with the approved germicide (e.g. accelerated hydrogen peroxide).

#### 8. Uncarpeted Floors

- a. In direct patient care areas (e.g., patient rooms, ICUs, corridors), damp mopping with an approved EPA registered disinfectant solution will be done on a daily basis using a microfiber mop.
  - i. Excess solution should be expressed from the microfiber mop prior to use
  - ii. After a microfiber mop is removed from the mop bucket containing the cleaning solution and is used, it should not be placed back into the solution.
  - iii. The microfiber mop head is changed between each patient room.
  - iv. Regular inpatient room floors may be buffed/burnished, either while the patient is in the room with their permission or while the patient is out of the room. For ICUs, Burn Center, BMTU, and Isolation/Protective Precautions rooms, buffing/burnishing cannot be done while the patient is in the room. Buffing/burnishing in these areas can be done when there is no patient and the door is closed. No buffing/burnishing is allowed in an open ICU or open bay unless empty or in corridors unless patient room doors remain closed. Fans may be used for floor drying in clinical areas if patient room doors are shut and not in units with open bays.

IC 0020 Page 6 of 11

- b. Doors of patients on Protective Precautions should be closed when vacuuming, waxing, buffing, or burnishing corridor floors to minimize exposure to airborne dust.
- c. For non-patient care areas (e.g., office areas), microfiber mops are used. Dust mopping should precede the damp mopping.
  - i. The EPA registered disinfectant solution (mop water) must be changed after damp mopping every third room or equivalent surface area.
- d. Spills will be cleaned with a damp mop as soon as possible after they occur.

## Carpeted Areas

- a. Carpeted floors (e.g., nurse's stations, lounges, waiting rooms) will be vacuumed daily or as needed with a commercial vacuum. Refer to service level agreements in Appendix 1.
- b. When vacuuming corridors adjacent to areas where immune suppressed patients are housed, a commercial vacuum with HEPA filtration will be used.
- c. Carpeting will be extracted/shampooed with a commercial shampoo at least quarterly or as needed. This removes any residue of dust, lint and or debris, improves the appearance and assists in the control of microbial contamination. Carpet contaminated with blood/OPIM should first be disinfected with an EPA-registered disinfectant.
- d. All spills will be handled as soon as possible after they occur; a towel may be used to clean up the bulk of the substance spilled.
- e. Spot cleaning, shampooing and/or repairing of carpet will be done as the need arises.
- f. Thoroughly dry wet carpeting to prevent the growth of fungi; replace carpeting that remains wet after 72 hours.
- 10. If bedbugs are detected in the inpatient or outpatient setting notify the ES supervisor. The EHS protocol for management of bed bugs should be followed.
  - a. Refer to <u>EHS Policy 0056: Pesticide/Pest Management</u> Appendix A for Bed Bug Response Process.

# C. Spills of Blood, Other Potentially Infectious Substances (OPIM) and Broken Glass

- Gloves and other PPE if indicated will be worn while cleaning up spills of blood and other
  potentially infectious materials. After completing the cleaning process, remove PPE and
  wash hands thoroughly.
- 2. Cleaning of spills of blood, other potentially infectious substances (e.g., emesis, urine, stool, etc.) and broken glass will be performed as soon as possible after they occur. For small spills (e.g., <10 mL), staff working in the area will clean the spill and properly disinfect contaminated surfaces if Environmental Services personnel are not immediately available. For larger spills (e.g., >10 mL), staff working in the area will clean the spill and Environmental Services should be contacted to perform disinfection unless staff working in the area are able to perform the necessary disinfection.
- 3. An EPA-registered disinfectant-(e.g., A-456 II-N), or a 1:10 bleach and water should be used to clean-up blood spills on uncarpeted floors. An EPA-registered disinfectant should be used on carpeted floors.
- 4. Small spills are cleaned by wiping up the spill then cleaning the area with the EPA registered disinfectant.
- 5. Large spills should first be cleaned of visible matter using disposable absorbent material, the remaining spill wiped or mopped up then the area cleaned with the EPA registered disinfectant. A 1:10 dilution of bleach and water may be used. The bleach solution may be

IC 0020 Page 7 of 11

- stored up to 30 days in a capped plastic bottle. The bottle must be properly labeled with contents and expiration date.
- 6. Broken glass is always removed by using a mechanical device. Never pick up broken glass with gloved hands. Tongs or forceps may be used or a brush and dust pan. Dispose of broken glass in a sharps container. If the broken glass is contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious materials, the equipment used must be cleaned with a bleach solution or an EPA registered disinfectant.

## D. Care, Cleaning, and Storage of Equipment

- 1. Carts and cleaning implements stored on carts (i.e., toilet brush handles) should be cleaned with an EPA-registered disinfectant daily after use.
- Carts should be stored in the ES closet. In absence of an ES closet, carts should be stored
  in a clean area such as a storage closet or in an ES Cart Room. ES carts should not be
  stored in an area that contains clean patient supplies. The cart should only be stored after it
  has been cleaned, the soiled mop head removed, and mopping water emptied.
- 3. ES closets should be cleaned on a routine basis (e.g., monthly) in order to maintain them in a sanitary manner. The drainage area for soiled solutions such as mop water should be cleaned routinely to prevent residue build-up. Tissue and paper towels should be stored in a manner to prevent contamination. No paper products should be stored under any sinks.
- 4. Containers of cleaning agents must be appropriately labeled as to contents.
- 5. Secondary containers such as spray bottles must be managed in a manner to prevent microbial contamination. When refilling, the container must be completely emptied and not "topped off". Rinse the container thoroughly with tap water prior to refilling.
- 6. Pails and mop buckets should be thoroughly rinsed and wiped with the EPA registered disinfectant, inverted and allowed to dry until the next use.
- 7. Mop heads and microfiber mops should be removed and returned to the collection area to be sent to the laundry daily.
- 8. Exterior surfaces of vacuums should be cleaned with an EPA registered disinfectant daily, and interior surfaces should be cleaned when collection bags are removed and discarded. .
- 9. Pads from the buffing equipment should be removed and disposed of daily. The equipment should be wiped with an EPA registered disinfectant solution, including casters and cord.
- 10. Prior to reuse, utility gloves must be disinfected with an EPA-registered disinfectant and visually inspected for cracks or tears.
- 11. Carts used to transport bagged waste are wiped down with an EPA registered disinfectant on a weekly basis.
- 12. The removable accessories on high pressure steam cleaner will be cleaned in the following manner:
  - a. At the end of the day, remove accessories that have been used.
  - b. Brush away any visible contamination, if accessible.
  - c. Soak accessories in EPA-registered disinfectant-detergent for at least 1 minute. Rinse accessories in water.
  - d. Dry in a clean area.
  - e. Store after drying is complete.

IC 0020 Page 8 of 11

13. Equipment found to be in disrepair (e.g., paper towel dispenser not functioning or broken hand soap dispenser) should be reported to the supervisor of the area on the day it is noted.

# E. Selection and Use of Supplies

- 1. The EPA-registered disinfectant and any other cleaning supplies should be reviewed and approved by the Department of Hospital Epidemiology when a change is being considered using the peer reviewed literature.
- Dilution and dilution testing of cleaning products should be performed according to the manufacturer's specifications as indicated on the label. Failure to follow these instructions could result in an ineffective product.
- 3. Unless otherwise instructed, cleaning products will not be used for any other purpose than that for which the specific product was designed.
- 4. Mixing of several varieties of products should not be performed.

# F. Assessing Effectiveness of Surface Disinfection

 To assess the effectiveness of surface disinfection of cleaning, ES will conduct periodic sampling using an invisible fluorescence marker and black light technique. Results of sampling will be presented to the Hospital Infection Control Committee on a regular basis.

# G. Policy Implementation

The Director of Environmental Services will be responsible for monitoring and implementing the Infection Control Policy for Environmental Services.

## IV. References

Rutala, W. A., Gergen, M.F., Sickbert-Bennett, E. E., Williams, D.A., Weber, D.J. (2014). Effectiveness of improved hydrogen peroxide in decontaminating privacy curtains contaminated with multidrug-resistant pathogens. *American Journal of Infection Control, 42*, 426-428.

Rutala, W.A. & Weber, D.J. (2014). Selection of the ideal disinfectant. *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology*, *35*(7), 855-865

Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health Care Facilities. MMWR 2003:52.RR-10.

## V. Reviewed/Approved by

**Hospital Infection Control Committee** 

# VI. Policy Revision Dates

July 2004, Aug 2006, Sept 2008, Oct 2011, Oct 2014, Oct 2017

IC 0020 Page 9 of 11

**Appendix 1: Environmental Services Department Service Level Agreements** 

Improvement Areas	Agreement
Patient Rooms	Patient rooms will be cleaned using the 7-step method of cleaning. The following will be performed daily: trash removal, all surface ledges will be wiped down with an EPA registered disinfectant, floors damp mopped and bathrooms will be thoroughly cleaned daily.
Nurses' Stations & Lounges	All trash will be removed daily. All accessible counter tops and desks including telephones will be wiped down daily. All accessible floor space will be vacuumed or swept and mopped daily in the Nurses Station and daily in the Staff lounges
Restrooms	All surfaces, ledges, and flooring will be thoroughly cleaned <b>daily</b> following standard 7-step cleaning procedures and using approved EPA registered disinfectant. All paper and soap dispensers will be checked daily, and filled as appropriate.
Janitor's Closets, Other Non-Patient/Non Public Areas	The end user will place the trash outside the door of the office for collection by ES personnel on a daily basis. All ledges will be wiped and floor surfaces will be swept and damp mopped/vacuumed every other week.
Offices	The end user will place the trash outside the door of the office for collection by ES personnel on a daily basis. All ledges will be wiped and floor surfaces will be swept and damp mopped/vacuumed every other week.
Kitchenettes/ Clean and Soiled Utility Rooms	All trash will be removed daily. All accessible counter tops, including telephones will be wiped down daily. All accessible floor space will be vacuumed or swept and mopped <b>daily</b> .
Discharges	Discharges will be thoroughly cleaned following the 7-step cleaning method. An Environmental Services Supervisor will randomly inspect completed discharges on a <b>daily</b> basis. Inspections will be documented, maintained, and tracked for overall efficiency. The Environmental Services manager will communicate inspection results on a <b>monthly</b> basis.

- In the event that daily service cannot be delivered as outlined above ES Management will contact unit leadership regarding anticipated disruption to the service level for the day.
- ES Managers will round and / or meet with Unit Managers on predetermined weekly basis and as needed.
- If the Unit is unable to resolve a problem involving ES, ES Managers will perform service recovery on the unit with patient/family within 30 minutes of being notified of a patient complaint or service lapse.
- All ES staff will participate (after training by unit) in Unit service initiatives when on the unit.
- Unit and ES staff will follow mutually agreed upon process for ordering services and communication protocols to ensure effective and efficient support for the patient, including:
  - o Patient arrivals and departures,
  - Notification of service lapse
  - Service recovery follow-up with unit manager
- ES will track metrics relative to service expectations and develop action plans to address areas not meeting expectations.
- ES will adhere to their escalation for concern policy

IC 0020 Page 10 of 11

# Appendix 2: 7- Step Cleaning Method

Routine 7 Steps	Discharge 7 Steps	<u>Policing</u>
1. Pull waste/Linen	1. Empty Trash	1. Pull Trash
2. High Dust	2. High Dust/Wash Patient Bed	2. Clean Supplies
3. Damp Wipe	3. Damp wipe furniture/spot walls	3. Fill Supplies
4. Stock Supplies	4. Bathroom Cleaning	4. Sweep and spot mop floor
5.Clean bathroom	5. Stock supplies	(Mop thoroughly if necessary)
6.Damp mop floors	6. Damp mop floors	
7.Inspect work	7. Inspect floors	
Floor Care	Detail Cleaning	
1. Dust mop/vacuum	1. Stainless Steel	
2. Damp mop	2. Wall Spotting	
3. Spot Carpets	3. Baseboards	
4. Buff/Burnish floor	4. Toilets	
per schedule	5. High Dusting	

IC 0020 Page 11 of 11