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Owner	Sherie Goldbach: Project Coordinator
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Applicability	UNC Medical Center

Diversional Supplies (e.g., Toys and Books)

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I. Description

This policy addresses the selection and cleaning of diversional supplies (e.g., toys and books) used at UNC Hospitals. Diversional supplies are often used to enhance the care of patients at UNC Hospitals. An effective infection prevention and control policy is necessary to minimize the spread of infection among patients.

II. Policy

A. Definitions

1. **Non-porous materia**l: vinyl, plastic, metal, or other impervious material that allows for appropriate disinfection of surface.
2. **Porous material**: cloth, paper, cardboard, fabric, untreated wood, or other surfaces with pores or spaces that allow dirt, water, or other particles to penetrate beyond the outer surface. Examples: board games, cards, books, stuffed animals.

B. Cleaning Process

1. Items made of porous materials.
    a. Should be disposed of if visibly soiled or damaged.
    b. Should be disposed of or sent home with the patient as a gift if used in an isolation room. Alternatively, they should be isolated in storage for six months, allowing time for the organisms to become incapable of causing

infection, after which time they could be used by another patient.

2. Items made of non-porous materials.
    a. Should be cleaned after use with an EPA-registered disinfectant (e.g., Cavicide or Sani-Cloth) when soiled and after being removed from a patient room. If the EPA-registered disinfectant contains bleach, accelerated hydrogen peroxide, or quaternary ammonium compounds, the item should be rinsed or wiped with tap water and dried following the use of the disinfectant, if it may be used by a child who has tendency to place toys/ items in mouth.
    b. Washing plastic/vinyl toys in the dishwasher with detergent is acceptable, using a sanitizing or sterilizing cycle with hot water, a normal water cycle, and a heated drying cycle. Ensure all items are thoroughly dried prior to placing back in use.
3. Electronic devices (e.g., Computers, Gaming Systems, Touch Screen Devices) used by patients.
    a. Electronic devices shared between patients must be disinfected between patient uses with an EPA-registered disinfectant.
    b. It is preferable to have a plastic cover on the keyboard to prevent damage to the keyboard from liquids and to ease disinfection of the keyboard.
    c. Touch screen devices with protective cases (e.g., Otter box) and screen cover should be disinfected with an EPA-registered disinfectant (e.g., Cavicide or Sani-cloth, do not use bleach). This disinfection may be followed by wiping with plain water to remove any "film" that may be caused by the cleaning/disinfection agent.
    d. Touch screen devices without a protective case must be disinfected per manufacturer's recommendation using an EPA-registered disinfectant. If the manufacturer recommendation does not include disinfection with an EPA-registered disinfectant, a protective case must be used.
    e. Shared devices that cannot be cleaned with bleach per manufacturer's recommendations cannot be used by patients on Enteric Precautions isolation.
4. Toys in common areas will be cleaned according to the procedure above, on a routine basis, and when visibly soiled.
5. Robotic pets used for therapy should be cleaned between each patient use and on a routine basis (e.g., weekly), and if visibly soiled, with an EPA-registered disinfectant (i.e., Super Sani-Cloth or accelerated hydrogen peroxide spray).

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C. Selection

1. Purchased or donated items should be new, unused and in original packaging. New items do not need to be sterilized or disinfected before use.
2. Items that retain water (e.g., bath toys, squeeze toys) are not allowed.
3. If an item is discovered to be broken, cracked, or unable to be cleaned, it will be discarded. Wooden finished or painted items will be disposed of when the finish cracks or is damaged, making the item no longer cleanable.
4. Arts and craft supplies:
    a. Art and craft supplies that are highly manipulated and cannot be cleaned (e.g., clay) are single-use items and must be given to the patient to take home or be discarded.
    b. Crayons may be distributed in single use boxes or may be stored in a large bin, but only accessible to staff who will provide a set for the patient to use and keep.

D. Special Considerations for use in Pediatric Inpatient Units (Including Pediatric Psychiatry and Play Facility Areas)

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1. Porous toys will be available in the inpatient setting with the following guidelines:
    a. There will be no porous toys, books, puzzles, or playing cards available in unsupervised common areas.
    b. Porous toys, books, puzzles, and games may be used in supervised areas such as the play atrium and during supervised play with hospital staff in a patient's room.
    c. Patients should be instructed to perform hand hygiene before and after playing with cards, board games, puzzles, or crayons.
2. Toys made of porous materials in an inpatient pediatric patient room should be used by patients who do not tend to place toys in their mouth
3. Toys made of non-porous materials in an inpatient pediatric patient room.
    a. May be used by patients who tend to put things in their mouth.
    b. Should be cleaned when soiled and after being removed from a patient room.
4. Patients on Isolation Precautions:

a. Preferably, a child on isolation precautions will have their own toys or be given toys they may keep.

5. Use of teaching aids/dolls (e.g., central line teaching doll).
    a. Are for teaching purposes only.
    b. Should be used by staff with patients in the patient's room or similar setting.
    c. Should not be used for general developmental play purposes.
    d. Staff should assist the patient in washing their hands or using hand sanitizer before and after touching the aide/doll.
    e. A clean sheet or barrier (i.e., chux) should be placed on the bed under the aide/doll. After use, the sheet should be placed in the soiled linen hamper.
    f. If using a table, clean the table with an EPA-registered disinfectant before placing the aide/doll on the table. The table should be cleaned again after use.
    g. Teaching aide dolls will be cleaned between each patient use.

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E. Special Considerations for use on Adult Inpatient Units (Including Adult Psychiatric Units)

1. Hand Hygiene should be performed before and after utilizing shared puzzles, books, and games in common areas.
2. Pool table felt does not have to be disinfected, but cue sticks, balls, and racking triangle will be disinfected using an EPA-registered disinfectant after use by a patient.
3. Robotic pets may not be used for patients on Contact or Enteric Precautions, or patients with draining wounds. Patients should perform hand hygiene before and after robotic pet use. During an outbreak situation, robotic pets may be discarded at Infection Prevention's discretion.

F. Special Considerations for use of Libraries

1. The lending library, cancer resource center, and hospital school library should be supervised whenever possible.
2. Hand hygiene stations and signs asking guests in the library to perform hand hygiene before and after picking out a book will be made readily available.
3. Books returning to the school library after use by a patient in their room will be isolated in storage for six months, be thrown away, or be given to the patient to keep.
4. The lending library will place labels in books stating that if they are taken to a patient room, they should be kept by the patient and not returned to the library.

5. Hospital School Textbooks
    a. If study materials that cannot be cleaned become soiled, they should be discarded.
    b. Contaminated textbooks used by a patient on isolation precautions may be isolated in storage for 6 months, allowing time for the organisms to become incapable of transmitting infection, after which time they can be used by another patient.

G. Special Considerations for use in Ambulatory Care and Waiting Areas

1. Hand hygiene agents should be readily available for use.
2. Items to be used by patients (who tend to put things in their mouth) should be made of a cleanable material.
3. Books and magazines in waiting areas should be disposed of when visibly soiled or damaged.

III. Responsible for Content

Infection Prevention

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All Revision Dates

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Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
Policy Stat Administrator	Judith Strubin: Mgr Program-IP	10/2026
AVP Quality UNCMC	Erin Burgess: HCS Exec Dir Quality Improvement Complex AMC	10/2026
Dir Epidemiology	Emily Vavalle: HCS Exec Dir Infection Prevention	10/2026
	Sherie Goldbach: Project Coordinator	09/2026

Applicability

UNC Medical Center

Standards

No standards are associated with this document

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