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| **Infection Prevention and Control Policy and Procedure** | **Subject: Cleaning and Disinfection of Non-Critical Care and Shared Equipment** |
| **Prepared By**: | **Approved By**: |
| **Effective:** 9/5/2022  **Reviewed:** | **Revised:** |

**POLICY**

It is the policy of this facility to ensure that resident care equipment, including reusable items and durable medical equipment will be cleaned and disinfected according to current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for disinfection and the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard.

**DEFINITIONS**

**Critical items** consist of items that carry a high risk of infection if contaminated with any microorganism. Objects that enter sterile tissue (e.g. urinary catheters) or the vascular system (e.g. intravenous catheters) are considered critical items and must be sterile.

**Semi-critical items** consist of items that may come in contact with mucous membranes or non-intact skin (e.g. respiratory therapy equipment, cuticle and nail nippers) and require, at a minimum, high level disinfection prior to reuse.

**Non-critical items** (e.g. blood pressure cuffs, stethoscopes, bed rails) are those that may come into contact with non-intact skin but not mucous membranes and should undergo low or intermediate-level disinfection.

**Reusable items** are cleaned and disinfected or sterilized between residents (e.g. stethoscopes, durable medical equipment).

**Single resident-use items** are cleaned/disinfected between uses by a single resident and disposed of afterwards (e.g. bedpans, urinals).

**Single-use items** are disposed of after a single use (e.g. thermometer probe covers)

**PROCEDURE**

1. Critical and semi-critical items will be sterilized/disinfected in a central processing location and stored appropriately until use.
2. Durable medical equipment (DME) will be cleaned and disinfected before reuse by another resident.
3. Reusable resident care equipment will be decontaminated and/or sterilized between residents according to manufacturers’ instructions.
   * Refer to Policy and Procedure from (insert name of Podiatry Consulting Company) for specific details for cleaning and disinfection of podiatric equipment.
4. Only equipment that is designated reusable will be used by more than one resident.
5. Single use items will be discarded after a single use.
6. Facility will utilize EPA-registered products for disinfection when indicated.

**Reference(s)**:

CDC (10/2018). Guide to Infection Prevention for Outpatient Podiatry Settings. <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdf/Podiatry-Guide_508.pdf>

CDC (5/24/2019). Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare Facilities, 2008. <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/disinfection/index.html>