

# Huddle Cards: Healthcare Client Room Cleaning

## Staff Huddle: Healthcare Client Room Cleaning- Week #1

- Germs are a special risk in the healthcare environment.<sup>1</sup>
- Germs are found on the skin, in the gut, in the respiratory tract, and in the blood of clients or staff. Germs can also live in water and on wet surfaces, on dry surfaces, in dust and dirt, and on devices.
- Clean hands and proper cleaning and disinfection reduce germs on body surfaces and environmental surfaces preventing germ transmission through the touch pathway. <sup>5,6,7</sup>

### What is the difference between cleaning and disinfecting:

#### Cleaning<sup>5</sup>

- Cleaning removes visible dirt, dust, spills, smears, grime (including organic material like blood), and some germs from surfaces.
- It is important to clean before you disinfect.

#### Disinfecting<sup>5</sup>

- Disinfection is the process of killing germs.
- Read and follow label instructions of the EPA approved product so the correct amount of product and dwell time is used to kill the germs needed.<sup>10</sup>
- Dwell time or contact time is how long the surface needs to stay wet with the disinfectant to kill germs.



## Staff Huddle: Healthcare Client Room Cleaning Week #2

### Client rooms: 1,2,8,9,

- Begin with cleaning your hands and donning new PPE.
- Always clean any surface visibly soiled with blood or body fluids.
- Clean all high touch areas daily such as sinks, medical devices, floor, toilets, bed rails, etc.
- Order of cleaning should be from high surfaces to low surfaces and from less dirty to dirtier.
- Clean around the room in a specific way each time. Example: Going clockwise or counterclockwise.
- Toilets and then floors are cleaned last with the floor cleaning ending at the room entrance door.
- Remove PPE and clean your hands when hands are soiled or if changing to a clean task. For example, do hand hygiene when leaving the room to go to your supply cart for supplies.
- Dispose of disposable dirty cleaning supplies (wipes, cloths, some mop heads etc.). Disinfect reusable supplies (cleaning spray bottles, mop handles, etc.). Send reusable dirty supplies for cleaning/laundry (cloths, reusable mop heads, etc.)
- When done cleaning the room, remove PPE and clean your hands.



## Staff Huddle: Health care Client Room Cleaning Week #3

### Room cleaning with Discharge <sup>1,2,8,9,10</sup>

- Clean and disinfect all low- and high-touch surfaces, including those that may not be accessible when the room/area was occupied (e.g., patient mattress, bedframe, tops of shelves, vents,) and floors.
- Discard of personal care items. Patient care items are removed and sent for reprocessing. Including the removal of facility-provided linens carefully and bag to send for cleaning.
- Inspect window treatments, walls. If soiled, clean blinds and walls on-sit. Remove curtains for laundering.
  - ❖ Toilets<sup>1,2,8,9,</sup>
    - Private client toilets should be cleaned at least daily.
    - Public/shared toilets should be cleaned at least twice daily.
    - Reminder: Toilets are done last—just before the floors.
    - Be aware of the toilet bowl brush as it should be stored at the bottom of the cleaning cart and away from clean/unused supplies. If it is an isolation room, the toilet brush should be dedicated to that room and discarded with discharge.



## Staff Huddle: Healthcare Client Room Cleaning Week #4

### Helpful Tips <sup>1,2,8,9,10</sup>

- To clean surfaces, fold your cloth so it is flat. Do not bunch the cloth. Fold and use another clean side on the next surface.
- Dispose of the cloth when used, dirty, and when done with that room. Typically five to seven cloths are used per room. And remember, if you are using the bucket system, do not place the cleaning cloth back into the disinfectant solution after using it to wipe a surface.
- Don't rush contact time for disinfection. Follow the product's listed contact time.
- Know your cleaning and disinfectant products.
- Microfiber mops are recommended.<sup>10</sup>
- Daily checklists and assignment sheets help to properly complete cleaning and disinfection tasks. Checklists standardize daily cleaning and disinfection practices and encourages technicians to adhere to cleaning processes, policies and procedures including what disinfectant products to use.<sup>10</sup>
- Know and follow established facility policies and procedures

***Understanding the how, when, and why's of proper cleaning and disinfection will help keep staff and the client safe and healthy.***



## **References:**

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10. Environmental Cleaning 102 (cdc.gov); <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdf/strive/EC102-508.pdf>