

# Processes for Cleaning ED/UCC Patient Spaces (non-isolation) after Discharge

**Note:** Environmental Services (ES) cleans ED and UCC patient rooms regularly and typically cleans cubicle/room if patient is on isolation precautions. Follow your department or unit specific processes for requesting a room clean by Environmental Services.

If you have any questions or comments contact IPC at [jpcsurvstdadmin@ahs.ca](mailto:jpcsurvstdadmin@ahs.ca).

## Best practice recommendations

### Infection prevention and control resources

- [Principles for Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection](#)
- [Cleaning and Disinfection during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Addressing Disinfectant Supply Challenges](#)
- [Interim Disinfectant Substitution Products during COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Ready-to-Use Disinfectant Wipes - Key Points](#)

From [Principles for Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection](#)

Develop department or unit specific processes:

- Define roles and responsibilities, e.g., the assignment of cleaning tasks/specific equipment for each unit or area;
- Ensure non-environmental services cleaning staff have necessary supplies, e.g., ready-to-use disinfectant wipes, pre-mixed disinfectant solution, buckets, and cloths, to perform urgent cleaning tasks after hours. For more information, refer to [Cleaning and Disinfection during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Addressing Disinfectant Supply Challenges](#); [Interim Disinfectant Substitution Products during COVID-19 Pandemic](#) and [Key Points for Ready-to-Use Disinfectant Wipes](#).
- Define regular cleaning and disinfection tasks and those performed on an as-needed basis.
- Include a method to differentiate clean items from soiled items.
- Designate separate areas for handling/storing clean and soiled items.
- Include a process for identifying and reporting damaged, e.g., scratched, chipped, or torn surfaces that impair effective cleaning and removing them from service.

**Handling patient care items and equipment (per [Routine Practices](#))**

- Discard single-use disposable supplies
- Strip the stretcher/bed of linen
- Clean and disinfect reusable equipment before use by another patient:
  - Follow manufactures instructions for use. **Note:** Ready-to-use liquid 1L, e.g., Oxivir Tb™ with dry wipes is the most commonly available surface disinfectant substitute during the pandemic. Use OxivirTb™ ready-to-use liquid, contact time of one minute, with dry wipes unless use of accelerated hydrogen peroxide disinfectant is specifically contraindicated in manufacturer's instructions for use.

**Sample routine cleaning process for ED/UCC cubicles/rooms after patient discharge/transfer (non-isolation patient)**

### Equipment and supplies required

1. Cleaning and disinfecting products. **Note:** Refer to the [disinfectant substitution products](#) information sheet during the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Cleaning cloths, as required
3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as per [Point-of-Care Risk Assessment](#).

For more information contact  
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**Cleaning process for ED and UCC patient spaces (non-isolation) after discharge**

Steps		Notes
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect all equipment and supplies, e.g., ready-to-use disinfectant wipes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow manufacturer's instructions for cleaning and disinfecting medical devices.</li> </ul>
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perform hand hygiene</li> <li>Put on (Don) appropriate PPE</li> </ul>	
3.	<p><b>Remove patient equipment/items from cubicle/room</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bed pans, urinals, commode basins, etc.</li> <li>Strip the bed/stretcher of linen</li> <li>Remove used patient supplies, e.g., intravenous and injection supplies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow unit processes for cleaning and disinfection of patient supplies that don't remain in the room.</li> </ul>
4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discard any open single-use disposable items and non-cleanable items, e.g., in paper packaging; used suction liner, tubing and catheter</li> <li>Discard any magazines or books</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If items can be cleaned and disinfected, and are un-opened, clean and disinfect the exterior and leave the product in the cubicle.</li> <li>Open boxes of gloves and masks can be reused for the next patient unless there is evidence of contamination, e.g., visible soiling, rips in the box or other observed contamination.</li> <li>Refer to the <a href="#">IPC Best Practice Recommendation for Management of Patient Supplies on Discharge or Transfer</a>.</li> </ul>
5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take off (Doff) gloves</li> <li>Perform hand hygiene</li> <li>Put on (Don) new gloves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not perform hand hygiene while wearing gloves</li> <li>Do not re-use disposable gloves</li> </ul>
6.	<p><b>Clean and disinfect</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>door knobs/handles</li> <li>light switches</li> <li>call bells/cords</li> <li>hand rails</li> <li>chair arms</li> <li>patient equipment, e.g. IV poles</li> <li>carts (exterior)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Depending on the unit, unit assistants or service aides may clean IV pumps/poles, portable space lab screens commodes etc. in soiled utility room.</li> <li>Differentiate clean items from soiled.</li> <li>Where applicable, clean and disinfect technical equipment, including computers (site specific). <a href="#">Refer to IPC Best Practice Recommendation: Cleaning and Disinfection of Computers and Electronic Devices</a>.</li> </ul>
7.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>clean and disinfect medical devices that remain in the room, for example:</li> <li>vital sign monitor devices such as blood pressure cuffs, O2 saturation probes, ECG cables</li> <li>external surface of suction containers etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clean and disinfect reusable equipment before reuse by another patient.</li> </ul>
8.	<p><b>Clean and disinfect</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>bed rails</li> <li>mattress</li> <li>pillow</li> <li>headboard</li> <li>footboard</li> <li>tables</li> <li>any remaining equipment e.g., commodes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If other areas of the bed/stretcher are grossly soiled with blood and body fluids and it needs a full clean e.g. undercarriage, wheels etc., place the stripped bed in the hall or designated space to be cleaned as indicated by department or unit specific processes.</li> </ul>
9.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take off (doff) PPE</li> <li>Perform hand hygiene</li> </ul>	

Steps		Notes
10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Put a clean bed in the room</li> <li>Remake bed/stretchers with clean linen</li> <li>Replace necessary equipment or supplies, e.g., suction liner, tubing and catheter</li> <li>Report visibly soiled curtains requiring replacement to environmental services</li> </ul>	

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