
Cleaning of Clinical Storage Areas for Clean and Sterile Supplies



Best Practice Recommendations

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Before you start – training required!

- Regular training (baseline/on-hire and annually) includes:
 - storage and inventory management
 - transportation and distribution
- AHS training resources include:
 - Annual Continuing Education Infection Prevention and Control module
 - [Medical Device Reprocessing Video](#), Section 10 Storage and Transportation



What's the big deal?

- Our patients depend on each of us to perform our tasks safely and correctly
- Follow simple infection control measures to prevent contamination of patients' supplies and reduce the risk of infection



Step 1: Clean Hands

Before touching or handling clean and sterile supplies:

- Perform hand hygiene
- Do not wear gloves to touch or handle clean and sterile supplies
- See the [AHS Hand Hygiene Policy](#) and
- [Hand Hygiene Procedure](#) for more details



Step 2: Maintain supply sterility & cleanliness

Maintain the integrity of clean and sterile packages and products until point-of-use by:



- Handling, transporting and storing clean and sterile supplies separately from dirty supplies.
- Transporting clean and sterile supplies in labelled, cleanable, enclosed or covered carts, bins and totes, or plastic bags.
- Minimizing supplies in the patient rooms/care areas and establishing quotas and maximums for each care area.

Storage areas

- Storage surfaces should be smooth, non-porous, non-shedding and easily cleanable.
- If the storage area has a door it is kept closed with access limited to clinical and support staff.
 - Signage (e.g., Staff Only) is used to alert staff, patients and visitors about the limited access requirement.

Step 3: Handle clean supplies carefully

- Protect from damage, puncture or crushing [such as occurs when catheters are stored bent or exposed to contact (staff brushing against)]
- Supplies dropped on the floor should be thrown out (if disposable) or reprocessed (if reusable)
- Remove from shipping packages before storing (e.g., corrugated cardboard)
- Do not top up inner boxes of single-use supplies
- Do not overfill containers, bins or drawers
- Rotate stock (first in, first out)
- Assess infrequently used packages to determine if they are still needed
- Keep containers clean and free of visible dust or soiling



Example of a shipping package: corrugated cardboard picture courtesy of Department of Entomology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln



Examples of correct storage containers



Step 4: Perform cleaning duties without contaminating supplies

- Perform hand hygiene
- Assemble supplies
- Use disinfectants according to manufacturer's instruction – consider using ready to use wipes
- Clean from higher to lower and least contaminated to most contaminated
- Protect supplies from moisture – avoid using cloths that are saturated with fluid, ensure hands and surfaces are dry before touching packages

For more information:

- Principles of Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection, IPC Recommendations
<http://www.ahsweb.ca/ipc/bpg-enviro-cleaning-disinfection-z0-bpr-eqpt-clean>

- 4 Moments of Hand Hygiene Video
<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page15620.aspx>

Management of Patient Supplies on Discharge or Transfer
<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/hp/if-hp-ipc-bpg-patient-supplies.pdf>

- Environmental Services Standards, Guidelines and Protocols

Questions??

If you have any questions or comments regarding this information, please contact Infection Prevention and Control at ipcsurvstdadmin@ahs.ca.