

Guidance of Cleaning and Infection  
Control Measures for the Environment of  
Medical Institutions



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## 1. Purpose

It is to provide the principles of infection control measures for cleaning the environment of medical institutions, which can be used as a reference for operations. However, these operations might be implemented under various situation due to the medical functions of different divisions/wards, so the application of this guidance should be accordingly amended based on the feasibility and applicability on site to establish the operation protocols appropriate to the divisions/wards.

## 2. Preface

Medical institutions are complex environments containing diverse microbial organisms. Due to the nature of the activities of staff, patients and visitors in the institution, the risk of direct or indirect contact with contaminated surfaces through the high-contact surface of the medical institution environment is higher than that of public areas in the non-medical institution environment. Moreover, it may even cause staff, patients and visitors to contract diseases. Cleaning the environment of medical institutions, therefore, is the key to the prevention of infection and transmission for medical staff.

Good cleaning measures are the key to stopping the spread of infection diseases and should be consistently implemented in medical institutions. The cleaning staff are advised to take appropriate protective measures when performing operations. The cleanliness of the environment should be properly monitored to provide a safe and hygienic environment for medical institutions and protect the health of staff, patients and visitors.

## 3. Cleaning, Disinfection and Infection Control Measures for the Environment of Medical Institutions

### (1) Principles of Cleaning and Disinfection for the Environment of medical Institutions

- (i) Medical institution should establish the plans for regular cleaning.
- (ii) Equipment should be cleaned and disinfected as soon as possible after use.



(iii) Properly Choosing the Furniture and Environmental Surface Products for  
Care Regions.

a. Medical Institutions should discuss with relevant departments, such as infection control, cleaning service and occupational safety and health, to establish the regulations regarding the choice of environmental surface (such as walls and floors), furniture, decorative items, equipment, interior decoration, etc. in all areas (including public area and care areas for patients).

b. The environmental surface, furniture, equipment and interior decoration of medical institutions should choose the materials which are smooth, non-permeable, seamless, unfavorable for the survival of microorganisms, suitable for cleaning and disinfecting by hospital-grade detergents and disinfectants, and easy to be maintained and repaired.

c. Replace the worn, stained or faded, cracked or damaged furniture in a timely manner.

d. Upholstered furniture, cloth or other furniture that cannot be cleaned should not be installed in the care area, especially in the care area for patients with immunocompromised problems. If medical institutions use the aforementioned types of furniture, they should have plans to replace cloth furniture which can be cleaned and disinfected.

e. For cloth items used in medical institutions, such as pillows, curtains, mattresses, etc., it is recommended to use materials which are seamless, double-layer stitching, anti-fungal, quick-drying, suitable for hospital-grade cleaning agents and disinfectants for cleaning and easy to be maintained and repaired.

f. Carpets should not be installed, especially in areas of caring for patients with immunocompromised problems, or areas prone to contamination by blood and body fluids. If carpets are installed, the material should be cleanable with hospital-grade cleaners and disinfectants, and the cleaning can be implemented by specially trained cleaning staff with special cleaning tools and corresponding procedures.



The carpets should be dried as soon as possible after cleaning to avoid mold growth.

Carpets should be replaced or removed if worn, stained or faded.

g. The equipment used in the medical environment should be able to be fully cleaned, disinfected or covered; if plastic covers (such as bed covers and keyboard protective covers) are used, they should be cleaned regularly with a suitable detergent, and the covers should be replaced if damaged or uncleanable.

(iv) Properly choosing and using the products for cleaning and disinfecting environment.

a. Environmental detergents are to remove organic matter and greasy dirt in the environment and disinfectants are to kill or deactivate the microorganisms in the environment. Common hospital-grade disinfectants used to disinfect the environment of medical institutions include alcohols (60% -90% ethanol or isopropanol), chlorine compounds (such as sodium hypochlorite or calcium hypochlorite), phenolics, quaternary ammonium compounds (QUATs), Iodophors, hydrogen peroxide, etc. Disinfectants should not be used as general cleaning agents unless products are also for cleaning use.

b. According to Article 5, Item 1, Paragraph 1 of the Environmental Agents Control Act, environmental sanitation agents refer to environmental sanitation pesticides, insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides, and other agents that prevent environmentally harmful organisms.

