



DISINFECTION POLICY FOR ICU

| Equipment | Key | Comment or alternative methods of treatment |
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| Blood Pressure cuffs | GPD SU | Wash and dry between patient or use disposable cuff per patient. Use covers or send to the laundry |
| ECG Monitors | GPD | Damp dust daily and between patients. |
| Electrode leads | GPD | Clean between patients |
| GENERAL CLEANING | | |
| Horizontal Surfaces, e.g. Ledges, tops of bed rails, radiators, equipment rails | GPD | Damp dust with GPD and dry with paper towels daily and between patients. Duties to be performed by domestic staff. |
| Walls | GPD | Wash with GPD between infected cases: MRSA, Group A <i>Streptococcus</i> , gentamicin-resistant coliforms; HIV HCV and HBV with overt blood spillage (See Spillage Policy). |
| GENERAL CLEANING | | |
| Horizontal Surfaces, e.g. Ledges, tops of bed rails, radiators, equipment rails | GPD | Damp dust with GPD and dry with paper towels daily and between patients. Duties to be performed by domestic staff. |
| HUMIDIFIERS | | |
| eg Cascade | GPD | Rarely used now. Wash and dry daily. |
| eg Aquapak | SU | Disposable units (eg "Aquapaks") must be discarded when contaminated |
| HUMIDIFIERS | | |
| INTRAVASCULAR DEVICES AND SUNDRY EQUIPMENT | | |
| LINES for intravenous/intra-arterial administration | SU | No traffic lights unless absolutely clinically indicated. Use Y-giving sets in preference to 3-way taps on IV infusions. All lines to be dated. Sites to be inspected twice a day as well as when giving infusion. |
| Peripheral Cannulae | SU | Date. Inspect daily and record as "not inflamed". Change at first sign of inflammation and preferably every 48h |
| Central Venous catheters | SU | Change intravenous lines at first sign of inflammation. Inspect daily and record "not inflamed". Railroaded over infected lines is to be discouraged. |
| TPN catheters | SU | Should be dedicated for this purpose |
| Giving sets | SU | Change every 48 hours (24 hours for TPN). |

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PROBES

Rectal and other probes

SU or sheath

Use disposable sheaths or wash clean in GPD followed by alcohol. Rinse and store dry

(if used)

Ultrasound

Sheath or ALC

COMMON USER EQUIPMENT

Stethoscopes

ALC

One per patient. Clean daily and between patients with alcohol wipes. Preferably should not be worn by the nurses or doctors and carried from patient to patient without cleaning.

SUCTION EQUIPMENT

Wall Suction

SU

Use disposable units. Discard in approved container for incineration

Reservoir

GPD

Empty and clean and daily between patients

Tubing

(patients to reservoir)

Changed daily and between patients

Tubing

(wall to reservoir)

GPD

Wiped daily. Date and change monthly

VENTILATOR AND SUNDRY EQUIPMENT

Ventilators

GPD

Damp dust daily with GPD and dry with paper towels between patients.

Internal operation:

Use Pall's filters (or equivalent) in use for proven infection or

Patients likely to be ventilated for >24 hours

Clean internal mechanisms every 2 weeks.

Otherwise, dismantle and clean mechanism according to local policy.N.B. disinfect internal parts in autoclave after, for example: pulmonary tuberculosis, resistant Gram-negative organisms in sputum or respiratory tracts, MRSA in the respiratory tract including nose swab, definite fungal infection, *Pneumocystis carinii*, lobar and community-acquired pneumonia.

SSD

Ventilator Tubing

SU

Removable parts can be autoclaved.

Change between patients. For long-term patients, tubing dated and changed weekly.

"Rebreathe" bags

Changed weekly in long-term patients. Store clean and dry

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