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| **Authorized/Reviewed by** | Individual or Committee Name |
| **Standard** | 22VAC40-61-290 |

**Definition and Overview (define the infection control practice**)

Participant care equipment in adult day centers is categorized as reusable participant care items that contact intact skin but not mucous membranes. Examples of these types of participant care items are blood pressure cuffs and other vital signs equipment, and mobility equipment.

**Purpose (why this policy/procedure is important)**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) includes cleaning and disinfection of reusable participant care equipment, devices and supplies as a component of Standard Precautions, and they are important processes used to prevent the transmission of pathogens (harmful germs) to participants, staff and visitors.

Cleaning makes the participant equipment and supplies safe to handle and removes matter, salts and soils that can interfere with disinfection. The physical action of scrubbing with detergents and surfactants and rinsing with water removes large numbers of microorganisms from surfaces. If the surface is not cleaned before the disinfection procedures are started, the disinfection process is compromised.

Proper handling, storage, cleaning and disinfection are essential for ensuring that participant care equipment and devices do not transmit infectious pathogens to participants or staff.

**Responsibility (who is responsible for following this policy/procedure)**

All staff have a responsibility to know and follow the elements of this policy that affect their job functions and have a responsibility to monitor the implementation and quality of cleaning and disinfection of participant care equipment and devices.

**Policy**

* All policies and procedures for general environmental cleaning and disinfection must be followed when cleaning and disinfecting participant equipment and supplies, in addition to the specific policies and procedures outlined below.
* Reusable participant equipment and reusable medical devices must be cleaned and disinfected with an EPA-registered healthcare disinfectant according to the manufacturer’s instructions and product labels.
  + Using inappropriate cleaning products can result in damage or failure to remove pathogens (germs).
  + Staff must adhere to use instructions, including the product’s specified contact time (also known as “wet time” or “kill time”) to perform as expected and to avoid exposure or injury.
* Equipment and devices must be cleaned and disinfected between participants and whenever they become soiled or contaminated.
  + Equipment and devices must be cleaned and disinfected as soon as possible after use to avoid drying/adherence of soiling onto the equipment or device
  + Equipment and devices should be cleaned and disinfected at the point of use, before moving to a common or storage area
  + Equipment and devices may only be placed in clean storage areas if they have been appropriately cleaned and disinfected
  + Equipment and supplies should never be stored within three (3) feet of a sink due to the potential for splash contamination
  + When clean and contaminated storage share the same physical space, clean and contaminated space must be separated and designated with at least three (3) feet of separation between clean and contaminated items
* Cleaned and disinfected participant care equipment, devices and supplies must be stored in a manner that prevents contamination.

**Procedure**

1. Clean and disinfect reusable participant care equipment, devices, and supplies as soon as possible after use and always before storage in clean areas or for use with another participant.
2. Perform cleaning and disinfection at the point of use or in an area that is not the designated clean area.
3. Gather supplies, including:
   1. EPA-registered cleaning and disinfecting agent(s) that are approved by the equipment/device manufacturer, prepared according to product label instructions
   2. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required by Standard Precautions and the product label instructions or Safety Data Sheet (SDS)
   3. Cleaning cloths
4. Follow manufacturer instructions and product labels for cleaning and disinfection.
5. Place cleaned and disinfected equipment, devices, or supplies in the center’s designated clean storage area. This clean storage area should be marked with signage. All items in the designated clean storage area are presumed to be cleaned according to the center’s expectation and process.

**Guidelines, Standards, and Resources for Policy/Procedure Development**

* [CDC’s Core Infection Prevention and Control Practices for Safe Healthcare Delivery in All Settings | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/core-practices/index.html)
* [Strategies to Mitigate Cross Contamination of Non-Critical Medical Devices | APIC](https://apic.org/noncritical-is-critical/)
* [Environmental Cleaning Procedures | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/hai/prevent/resource-limited/cleaning-procedures.html)
* [Environmental Infection Control Guidelines | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/environmental/index.html)

**Notes and Recommendations**

* Other participant care and center operation policies and procedures should reinforce environmental cleaning and disinfection as a critical step in a center’s infection prevention program.
* For all staff and volunteer training, consider the use of quizzes/tests at the conclusion of training, return demonstration, or teach back of content to ensure comprehension.
* Consider utilizing an audit tool for compliance with environmental cleaning and disinfection and implement an auditing schedule for ongoing sustainment of this policy.
* All sources, standards, guidelines, and resources should be verified annually, or more frequently as your center policy dictates, to ensure the most up to date information is provided.
* Consider addressing Occupational and Safety Health Administration (OSHA) standards for prevention and management of exposure to bloodborne pathogens.
* All staff have responsibility for knowing and following those elements of this policy that affect their job functions and have responsibility for monitoring the implementation and quality of cleaning and disinfection of participant care equipment and devices.
* If a center has specific positions responsible for adherence to this policy, the center may wish to outline those job titles and or functions, and their specific cleaning responsibilities.
* A center that utilizes disposable and single-use participant care equipment may wish to further expand upon that topic to include a bullet point that states: equipment, devices and supplies that are labeled specifically as “single-use,” “single-patient use” or “disposable” must never be reprocessed for use on another participant.
* A center may wish to indicate in their policy the location of the clean storage area(s).
* A center may utilize a labeling system or other similar process as a best practice to indicate when a participant care equipment, device or supply has been cleaned and disinfected. If a center uses a labeling system, the center is encouraged to outline the process and procedure for that labeling system within this policy.
* Consider, in addition to signage, the use of tape or other semi-permanent to permanent physical markers that visibly delineate and identify the clean storage area from other areas. The physical markers must have at least three (3) feet of clearance space between the clean storage area and other potential contaminants or areas.