

VALLEYCARE
OLIVE VIEW-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER/HEALTH CENTERS
REHABILITATION SERVICES
POLICY & PROCEDURE

NUMBER: 2456
VERSION: 2

SUBJECT/TITLE: INFECTION CONTROL PLAN FOR REHABILITATION SERVICES

POLICY: Staff perform proper infection control measures for all Rehabilitation treatment areas and equipment

PURPOSE: To ensure staff provide proper infection control measures and follow cleaning procedures for treatment areas and pieces of equipment that have been identified as high risk for cross contamination.

DEPARTMENTS: REHABILITATION SERVICES

DEFINITIONS:

PROCEDURE: I. GENERAL INFECTION CONTROL

- A. During orientation, new employees receive education on infection control procedures, hand hygiene policy and their role in protecting themselves and others from infection. Yearly in-service training is conducted to reinforce these principals on a continuing basis.
- B. All employees must observe standard precautions for all patients and follow posted guidelines for use of personal protective equipment when working with patients that are isolated.
- C. All employees must maintain a clean and orderly environment. Staff must follow established infection control and cleaning policies and procedures. Any concerns must be reported to the supervisor for correction.
- D. Any suspicion or incidence of a communicable disease exposure among employees is reported to Infection Control and the Employee Health Service.
- E. All patient care areas are routinely cleaned by Environmental Services.

II. BANDAGE SCISSOR CLEANING

- A. Dirty Scissors
 - 1. Dirty bandage scissors are soaked in distilled water in a

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covered container marked "Biohazard".

2. Dirty scissors are processed by Central Services.

III. CAST SAW BLADE AND CAST REMOVAL TOOLS

- A. If a saw blade or cast removal tool becomes contaminated with blood or body fluids, follow the same procedure used for cleaning bandage scissors.
- B. After each use, unplug cast saw. Wipe down cast saw body with disinfectant, according to manufacturer instructions.

IV. WOUND CARE

- A. Place a barrier such as a towel, sheet or sterile drape under the area being treated, so patient does not have direct contact with any surface.
- B. When removing bandages from patients, place wound dressings into a paper bag. Discard bag into the covered trash bin.
- C. Dressings that are saturated with blood and body fluids are disposed of in the red biohazard trash can
- D. Place a sterile drape on the treatment cart. Gather necessary supplies to do the dressing change and place on cart. The following cleaning technique is followed.
 1. If working alone:
 - a. Open all packages, pre-cut packing strips, moisten gauzes with saline or other solution, and tear tape pieces in advance. Apply any creams directly to the sterile drape and apply any topical medications to tongue depressors.
 - b. Don gloves. Apply products to patient.
 - c. If additional products are needed, remove gloves, wash hands and retrieve items. Re-don gloves.
 2. If working with an assistant:
 - a. Gather necessary supplies and place on treatment cart.
 - b. Staff member providing treatment washes hands and dons gloves. Assistant will open packages and provide supplies to the person providing the treatment. Treatment person removes gloves and washes hands.
- E. After treatment is finished, remove linens and immediately clean all patient care surfaces with disinfectant according to manufacturer instructions. Cover plinth with clean sheet and replace pillow

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cases.

- F. All wounds must be covered when patient leaves wound care area.
 - G. Any packages that have been opened must be discarded or given to the patient.
 - H. The date and time must be marked on the saline bottle, when it is initially opened. Opened saline must be discarded after 24 hours.
 - I. The whirlpool room is scheduled to have the floor scrubbed weekly by Environmental Services and mopped daily, or more frequently as needed.
 - J. Sharps must be disposed of in the sharps container.
- V. PARAFFIN BATH: CONSOLE MODEL/CRIMM PARA THERM MODEL
- A. Precautions
 - 1. Patients with open wounds, abrasions, cuts, rashes or scabs are prohibited from using the paraffin unit.
 - 2. Patients must wash the extremity with soap and water, prior to using the unit.
 - 3. Discard paraffin from patient into the covered trash bin.
 - B. Cleaning and Sterilization
 - 1. Console Model:
 - a. Tape is placed over lids to prevent inadvertent use while temperature is raised.
 - b. Weekly sterilization: Set timer to “55 minutes on position” after last paraffin treatment each Friday P.M. This raises the paraffin temperature to 200F°.
 - 2. Crimm Para Therm unit: is cleaned quarterly or sooner if indicated.
- VI. HOT PACK/COLD PACK TANKS/ICE MASSAGE CUPS
- A. Hot Pack Tank
 - 1. Clean every two months
 - a. Remove hot packs from the tank.
 - b. Drain the tank through the hose in the back of the machine.
 - c. Clean the grate and sides of tank with disinfectant per manufacturer’s instructions and rinse with water.
 - d. Fill with warm tap water and replace

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2. Hot pack covers are laundered after each patient use.

B. Cold Pack Tank

1. Unplug tank and defrost, when frost build up occurs
2. Towels and linens used as barrier between patients is discarded into the "Soiled Linen" hamper.

C. Exterior maintenance of Hot /Cold Pack Tank

1. Wipe down exterior with disinfectant used per manufacturer's instructions, weekly, or more often.

D. Ice Massage Cups

1. Use new paper cup each time ice cups made.
2. Discard cup and ice after each patient use.

VII. LINENS

A. All linen is stored in a covered cabinet or cart.

B. A metal cart is used to transport linen to the various linen carts in the department. Linen cannot be left on the cart or left uncovered.

C. Linens are changed after each patient use. All dirty linens and hot pack covers are placed into the soiled linen hamper after each patient use.

VIII. PATIENT TREATMENT SURFACES, EXERCISE EQUIPMENT AND MODALITIES

A. Any surface used during patient treatment is cleaned with disinfectant, according to manufacturer instruction after each patient use.

B. All exercise equipment including handles, seats, and weights is cleaned with disinfectant, according to manufacturer's instructions after each patient use.

C. Anything that comes into contact with the patient, such as cords, halters, cuffs and sound heads are cleaned with disinfectant, according to manufacturer's instructions after each patient use.

D. Electrodes and wires

1. Patients receiving electrical modalities are assigned their own set of electrodes. The electrodes are marked with the patient's name.
2. Rinse excess gel with water. Clean with disinfectant, according to manufacturer's instructions.
3. If tape residue remains use adhesive tape remover.

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4. Dry electrodes on paper towels.

E. Plinths in treatment booths are to be covered with sheets and changed after each patient treatment.

IX. TOYS

A. After each use, immediately place dirty toys in the container labeled, "Toys to be Cleaned". Clean toys with disinfectant according to manufacturer's instructions. Thoroughly rinse the toys with water and place on towel to dry. The cleaning must occur as soon as possible, and prior to end of work shift. Once dry, toys are returned to the toy cabinet.

B. Discard any toy that is not washable, has absorbent padding, has porous surfaces or is deteriorating/broken.

X. SINKS

A. All sinks in treatment areas are used for general hand washing, cleaning toys and scissors, etc.

B. Utensils, coffee cups, dishes, etc may be cleaned in the ADL kitchen or in the kitchenette area.

C. Sinks are cleaned by Environmental Services.

D. Do not store anything under the sinks.

XI. REFRIDGERATORS, MICROWAVES, STOVES, COFFEE POTS

A. Clean quarterly or more regularly with disinfectant per manufacturer's instructions.

B. Staff are responsible to regularly check for expired food items in the staff refridgerator.

References:

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