

**Infection Prevention and Control Policies
No. 28**

Cleaning of Source Isolation Rooms/Bed Spaces

Source isolation is the physical separation of one patient from another, in order to prevent the spread of infection.

The patient may be nursed in a side room or may have to be treated as if in isolation on the open ward.

The cleaning of the source isolation rooms/bed spaces is the responsibility of both hotel service and nursing staff

Scope of policy

- ❖ This policy applies to all healthcare staff and students working in LTHT

Aim: To ensure the isolation room is cleaned correctly, minimising the spread of infection.

Please refer to “**Source Isolation**” found in **The Leeds Teaching Hospitals Infection Prevention Policies** folder.

1. How will you know when isolation cleaning is required?

The ward nursing staff will undertake a risk assessment as to whether a patient requires isolation and if possible this will be carried out.

- The nursing staff on the ward will notify the hotel service supervisor and ward housekeepers when special cleaning is required.
- A notice stating “**PLEASE SEE A NURSE BEFORE ENTERING**” will be displayed at the entrance to the room by the nursing staff. This is to advise anyone wishing to enter the room to seek advice before doing so if you they are unsure of the precautions to take
- The hotel service supervisor will ensure that all staff working in the area are aware of the cleaning procedure for the cleaning of isolation rooms.
- The bed space vacated by the infected patient on the ward must be cleaned thoroughly following the source isolation cleaning guidelines.

- Carry out the procedure daily or as directed. In certain circumstances it will be necessary to carry out the procedure twice a day.

What equipment to use?

- The hotel service supervisor/ ward will supply the ward housekeepers with the necessary special cleaning equipment which is yellow and the CHLOR-CLEAN tablets. CHLOR- CLEAN is obtained by the ward from pharmacy.
- The cleaning equipment and materials must be kept in the isolation room.

Single use cloth/s and disposable mop/s (micro-fibre system).
CHLOR-CLEAN – detergent sanitizer
Red plastic bag
Orange clinical waste bag

Non sterile single use gloves and single use yellow apron. These are kept on a trolley/ shelf or dispenser outside the room.

3. When to cleanse hands

Please refer to “**Hand Hygiene**” found in The Leeds Teaching Hospitals **Infection Prevention Policies** folder/ or intranet.

- ALWAYS wash hands thoroughly with soap and water before leaving the isolation room
- Wash and dry hands or use the alcohol hand rub thoroughly after removing gloves
- Use the alcohol hand rub/gel once outside the isolation room, bed space or cohort – hands may become contaminated when leaving the room.

4. How to clean the isolation room on a daily basis

- Clean isolation rooms or bed spaces last; after the other rooms, bays and general areas on the ward.
- Put on single use yellow apron and gloves before entering the isolation room. Staff may have to wear facemasks on rare occasions – Infection Prevention

will advise when this is necessary. These will be kept on a trolley/table/shelf outside the room.

- Damp dust all surfaces using a single use cloth and the CHLOR-CLEAN solution as directed. After use, dispose of cloth as clinical waste.
- Make sure the areas that are touched a lot are cleaned and dried thoroughly i.e. door handles, taps, toilet handles/pulls. push plates.
- Mop the floor utilising the disposable mop system with a solution of CHLOR-CLEAN. Remove the mop head after you have finished and dispose of as clinical waste (orange waste).
- When the cleaning process has been finished remove apron and gloves, dispose of into clinical waste bags and wash and dry hands thoroughly.

5. How to use Chlor-clean for general environmental disinfection.

- Please see Source Isolation Pack -

- **Microfibre cloths and disposable mops can be used with CHLOR-CLEAN**
- Always wear protective gloves and an apron.
- Refer to COSHH information and check date on product label.
- Do not use this product unless you have received training for proper procedures on the use of CHLOR- CLEAN, check with your locality supervisor.
- For environmental cleaning add 1 CHLOR-CLEAN tablet to every litre of water i.e. 1 tablet per litre; 2 tablets per 2 litres; etc. (this will make up 1,000 ppm available chlorine).
- Mix in a well ventilated room away from the patients using cold water. Leave the tablets to dissolve – this takes 3-4 minutes.
- Chlorine products will bleach fabrics and corrode metal. On exposed metal parts wash off CHLOR-CLEAN solution with clean water and dry paper towels.

6. What about waste?

- Treat all waste arising out of the isolation rooms/areas as if it is contaminated i.e. use orange clinical waste bag.
- Handle the outside of the bag only and do not touch the contents of the bag.
- Use a disposable cloth to wipe the waste bin thoroughly, throw cloth into bag.
- Seal each bag securely, before it is removed from the room.
- Still wearing protective clothing take the bag to the sluice, attach a tag indicating place of origin. Any items touched during this procedure (e.g. door handles) must be cleaned afterwards.
- Remove protective clothing and dispose of as clinical waste.
- Wash and dry hands thoroughly.

7. What about laundry?

- Treat all linen that has been in the isolation room as contaminated, even if it has not been used.
- Wearing protective clothing remove bed linen by folding towards the centre and rolling into a bundle.
- Place the bundle into the alginate bag, tie securely, and place into red plastic bag.
- Wash and dry hands thoroughly after removing protective clothing.

8. What about meals/drinks?

- Serve food and drinks directly to the patient unless otherwise directed by the nursing staff i.e. don't leave it outside the isolation room where it is inaccessible and may get cold.
- Crockery/cutlery can be adequately decontaminated in a dishwasher with a final rinse temperature of 80°C. Washing by hand is inadequate without a final rinse for one minute at 80°C. Disposable crockery and cutlery should not be used.

9. What about patient care equipment?

- It is important that patient care equipment in the room is dedicated to the isolated patient
- It is the nurse's responsibility to ensure patient care equipment is cleaned.
- All patient care equipment in the room should be cleaned daily using a solution of 1,000 ppm available chlorine i.e. CHLOR-CLEAN (see number 5 on how to use CHLOR-CLEAN). Staff must be trained in its use before cleaning with it.
- Toilets, commodes and baths must be cleaned with CHLOR-CLEAN after use

9. What happens when the room is no longer required for isolation?

- Remove bed linen and all unused linen following the above procedure
- Clean the bed, bed frame and mattress/pillow/s with a single use cloth and a solution of Chlor-clean (see Terminal Cleaning Protocol). Make sure the mattress/pillow is thoroughly dried with paper towels (turn mattress as per policy). Damaged mattresses must be reported to the supervisor/nurse in charge. For specialist mattresses care is needed; always ask the ward staff.
- Make sure the vacated room is thoroughly cleaned using the specified method, solutions and equipment.
- All patient care equipment must be thoroughly cleaned by the nursing staff using CHLOR-CLEAN as previously specified.
- Curtains do not usually need to be changed on patient discharge unless they are soiled – they must then be changed immediately. If the curtains do need to be changed the Infection Prevention Team will inform the supervisor.
- The periodic changing of curtains should proceed as planned.
- Walls do not need to be washed unless soiled or otherwise requested by the Infection Prevention Team. However, in order to maintain a clean condition the walls should be washed on a regular basis.

- When the terminal clean is finished, dispose of the single use cloths and mop as clinical waste (orange waste).

10. What if there are no side-rooms available to be used as isolation rooms?

- Infection Prevention may advise that the infected patient is nursed on the main ward as if in isolation i.e. imagine barriers around the bed space and follow the isolation cleaning procedure using special equipment, cleaning solutions and methods; wearing protective clothing and washing hands on leaving the area.

11. What if there are a few patients with the same infection being nursed together on the ward?

- This area can be cleaned using the same isolation equipment, following the isolation cleaning procedure, wearing protective clothing and washing hands on leaving the area.

12. If you need further help!

Contact the Infection Prevention Nurses or Locality Supervisor

Consultation

Infection Prevention Steering Group

Documentation Control

Policy title	Cleaning of Source Isolation Rooms/Bed Spaces
Policy number	28
Version number	4 (revised May 2008)
Supersedes	Cleaning of Source Isolation Rooms/Bed Spaces - March 2006
Date approved	October 2007
Approving body	ICC
Review date	October 2009
Supporting procedure(s)	None
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Distribution	Matrons, Chief Nurses Team, Consultants, Clinical Directors, Divisional General Managers, Divisional Nurses, Divisional Medical Managers, Directorate Managers (also emailed trust wide)

Policy Date: March 2006

**Revised Date: August 2007
(amended May 2008)**

Policy Review Date: August 2009