

Module 1

Module 1 Frequency of cleaning

This Module sets out the minimum frequencies for routine cleaning of the different functional units and the timeframe for acting on problems within those functional areas.

The frequency of cleaning is determined by risk analysis. All functional areas in healthcare facilities are to be assigned to one of four risk categories, each of which represents different degrees of risk of infection that require different cleaning standards and frequencies, and different timeframes for rectifying problems.

The four risk categories are:

- Extreme
- High
- Medium
- Low

At anytime a facility can increase the weighting of a functional area if the patients in that area are at an increased risk of infection, such as during an outbreak. The decision to increase a functional areas weighting and when to return to its original category must be done in conjunction with the local Infection Prevention and Control Professional (ICP). No functional area should have its original weighting reduced.

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Risk	Frequency of cleaning	Timeframe for acting on problems
Extreme Risk		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operating theatres (OT) - includes procedural areas where significant invasive procedures are performed and patients are at very high risk of infection (e.g. invasive radiology, cardiac catheter laboratories, dental, orthopaedics), and sterile stock areas attached to OT 	<p>Clean:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> before the first patient between each case at the end of each list <p>Clean OTs that are used infrequently prior to use if not used the day before or overnight</p> <p>Clean & disinfect toilets at least twice daily; and check toilets at least twice more daily and spot clean.</p>	Within 6 hours
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day procedure areas where invasive procedures are undertaken (e.g. endoscopy units) Medical imaging procedural areas where invasive procedures are undertaken 	<p>Clean between each case in addition to cleaning at the end of each list/daily</p> <p>Clean & disinfect toilets at least twice daily; and check toilets at least twice more daily and spot clean.</p> <p>(Infrequently used procedure rooms should be checked daily)</p>	Within 6 hours
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensive care units Special patient areas: areas with patients in isolation or with patients who are immuno-suppressed (e.g. burns, infectious diseases, transplant, oncology, haematology and dialysis units) Emergency Departments Level 2 and Level 3 nurseries Labour and Delivery wards 	<p>Minimum daily clean/disinfect with capacity for more. Ability to urgent spot cleaning.</p> <p>Clean & disinfect toilets at least twice daily; and check toilets at least twice more daily and spot clean.</p> <p>During an outbreak, consult the local ICP for advice on the required frequency of cleaning</p>	Within 6 hours
<p>Adjoining internal areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bathrooms, corridors, storerooms Lecture/meeting rooms, offices, pan rooms and staff lounges 	<p>Clean daily</p> <p>Clean & disinfect toilets at least twice daily; and check toilets at least twice more daily and spot clean.</p>	Within 6 hours

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<p>High Risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sterile stock storage (storage of sterile stock outside of Central Sterilising Services Department; includes stock storage area of Ambulance Stations) • Emergency Ambulances / Rescue Vehicles (with the ability to transport patients) / Ambulance station casualty rooms / Fixed Wing and Rotary Wing aircraft • Pharmacy - clean area • General wards • Level 1 nurseries • Mortuaries, mortuary fridges, body holding rooms • Paediatrics • Outpatient Clinics with treatment rooms • CSSD and sterile supply areas 	<p>Minimum daily clean with capacity for rapid spot cleaning</p> <p>Toilets at least daily; and check toilets at least twice daily and spot clean</p>	<p>Within 12 hours</p>
<p>Adjoining internal areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balconies, bathrooms, corridors, lecture/ meeting rooms • Pantries/nourishment stations, offices, pan rooms, staff lounges and storerooms 	<p>Clean daily</p> <p>Toilets at least daily; and check toilets at least twice daily and spot clean</p>	<p>Within 12 hours</p>

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<p>Medium Risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-Emergency Patient Transport Vehicles • All Ambulance operational support vehicles • Day activity areas • Rehabilitation areas: including hydrotherapy • Main Foyer • Residential accommodation • Pathology • General pharmacy • Kitchenette/pantry/other food preparation or storage areas • Laboratories • Medical imaging • Outpatient clinics: including consulting rooms, ambulatory care • Offices in patient/clinical areas • Cleaners room 	<p>Clean daily with capacity for spot cleaning</p> <p>Toilets at least daily; and check toilets at least twice daily and spot clean</p> <p>Clean main foyer toilets at least three times a day and check toilets at least three more daily and spot clean.</p>	<p>Within 48 hours</p>
<p>Adjoining internal areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balconies, bathrooms, corridors, lecture/meeting rooms • Pantries/nourishment stations, offices, pan rooms, staff lounges and storerooms 	<p>Clean daily</p> <p>Toilets at least daily; and check toilets at least twice daily and spot clean</p> <p>(Toilets in public areas may require more frequent cleaning)</p>	<p>Within 48 hours</p>

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Risk	Frequency of cleaning	Timeframe for acting on problems
Low Risk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offices • Ambulance Stations, including meal rooms, rest and recline areas, offices, toilets and showers • All other non-patient transport related vehicles • Non-sterile supply • Waiting rooms and other public areas • Conference areas, including educational areas • Cafeterias • Record storage and archives • Engineering workshops • Plant rooms • External areas of healthcare facilities 	Clean as required Clean toilets daily	Within 72 hours
Adjoining internal areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balconies, bathrooms, corridors, lecture/ meeting rooms • Pantries/nourishment stations, offices, pan rooms, staff lounges and storerooms 	Clean as required Clean toilets daily	Within 72 hours

At anytime a healthcare facility can increase the weighting of a functional area if the patients in that area are at an increased risk of infection, such as during an outbreak. Once this risk is no longer a factor that area can then return to its previous functional category. The decision to increase a functional area's weighting and when to return to its original category must be done in conjunction with the local ICP, cleaning management, and local facility management. No functional area should have its original weighting reduced.