

Environmental Cleaning

This domain performs a comprehensive assessment of environmental cleaning practices at the facility, as it currently functions.

Leadership Support

1 - Question here

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

1a - Does the facility have policies and procedures addressing environmental cleaning?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

1b - What is included in the Environmental Cleaning Policy and Standard Operating Procedures?

- Clearly defined staff cleaning roles and responsibilities
- Cleaning & Disinfection of non-critical medical equipment
- Cleaning schedules
- Contingency plans for chemically resistant organisms
- Outbreak management
- Protocol to identify clean vs dirty
- Manufacturer Contact time
- Systematic cleaning protocol
- Cleaning frequency of high-touch surfaces
- Daily cleaning of patient rooms
- Cleaning to minimize dust aerosols
- Cleaning of blood and body fluid spills
- Transmission-based precautions cleaning protocols
- Terminal cleaning
- Airborne isolation cleaning protocols
- None of the above
- Other

2 - Does the Infection Prevention program review the Environmental Services Department's policies and procedures as they pertain to infection prevention?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

3 - Does the facility have a protocol to readily identify equipment as clean or dirty?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

4a - Does the facility have checklists and standard operating procedures for environmental cleaning of specialty areas?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

What specialty areas have dedicated cleaning checklists and SOPs?

4b - Sterile Processing

- Yes
- No
- N/A

4c - Laboratory

- Yes
- No
- N/A

4d - Pharmacy

- Yes
- No
- N/A

4e - Dialysis

- Yes
- No
- N/A

4f - Burn Units

- Yes
- No
- N/A

4g - Intensive Care Units

- Yes
- No
- N/A

4h - Non-patient common areas

- Yes
- No
- N/A

4i - Oncology Wards

- Yes
- No
- N/A

4j - Obstetric Units

- Yes
- No
- N/A

4k - Are there additional specialty areas that have dedicated cleaning checklists and SOPs at your facility?

- Yes
- No

4l - What additional areas have dedicated checklists and SOPs?

Admissions

5 - Does the facility have specialty cleaning protocols for high-consequence organisms such as *Candida auris*?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

6 - Does the facility have a standardized communication method to notify EVS personnel that transmission-based precautions are in use for a patient room?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Environmental Cleaning Program

7 - Does the IPC program participate in a chemical risk assessment for all chemicals within the facility?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

8 - Are the safety data sheets (SDS) readily accessible to healthcare personnel for all chemicals at the facility?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

9a - Does the IPC program have a process for cleaning and disinfection when information from the manufacturer is limited or the hospital does not carry the recommended EPA-registered hospital disinfectant?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

9b - Is there an established risk assessment when in-house EPA-registered hospital disinfectants are not approved for a specific device or medical equipment?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

10 - Is EVS a member of the Infection Control Committee or Quality Improvement Committee?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Contracted Services

11 - Does the facility externally contract its Environmental Cleaning Services (EVS)?

- All EVS is contracted
- Some EVS is contracted
- None- all EVS are performed by in-house staff

12a - Is the IPC Program involved with the EVS contract or service level agreement?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

12b - As part of the review process for the service level agreement, does the IP review:

- Staff training and competency
- Staff immunization
- EPA-registered hospital disinfectant selection
- Disinfectant selection for clinical scenario or location in which it is used.
- Chemical Safety Data Sheets
- Scope of practice/ Roles and responsibilities
- Contingency plan cleaning
- None
- Other

Education & Training

13a - Does the facility have a competency-based training program for environmental cleaning?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

13b - Who receives competency-based training for Environmental cleaning and disinfection?

- Clinical Healthcare Personnel
- Ancillary Services
- Non-clinical Healthcare Personnel
- Clinical Support
- Students & Trainees
- Volunteers

- Contractors
- None
- Other

13c - What is included in environmental cleaning training and education?

- PPE use to prevent exposure to infectious agents
- PPE use to prevent exposure to chemicals
- Adherence to manufacturer IFU
- Wet Time
- Systematic cleaning procedures, if applicable to the role
- Cleaning checklists if applicable to the role
- Chemical disinfectant preparation, if applicable to the role
- Chemical disinfectant selection and use
- Daily cleaning procedures
- High-touch surface cleaning procedures
- Blood/body fluid cleaning and disinfection procedures
- Other

13d - What frequency is environmental cleaning education and training provided?

- Upon hire
- Annually
- When new products and protocols are introduced
- As remediation for compliance failures
- Target improvement efforts
- None
- Other

13e - Are personnel required to demonstrate competency upon completion of training?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

13f - Does the facility maintain documentation for environmental cleaning training and education?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Audit & Feedback

14a - Does the facility audit adherence to environmental cleaning?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

14b - How are environmental cleaning audits performed?

- Direct observation by cleaning supervisors or trained staff
- Visual inspection

- Fluorescent markers
- ATP bioluminescence test
- Other

14c - Does the facility have a target number of observations as an environmental cleaning goal?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

15a - Does the facility provide feedback from the audits to healthcare personnel?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

15b - Do auditor(s) provide immediate real-time feedback to healthcare personnel in the moment?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

15c - Does the facility utilize environmental cleaning data to impact performance improvement?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Laundry Services

16 - How does the facility perform laundry services?

- Contracted Service
- Onsite
- Combination of both

17 - Does the contractor's service level agreement show evidence that the contractor's laundry service meets approved design standards for healthcare laundry?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

18 - Does the IP perform environment of care rounds at the off-site laundry facility?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

19 - Soiled textiles/linens are bagged or otherwise contained at the point of collection in leak-proof containers or bags.

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

21 - Are dirty linen bags color-coded or labeled as soiled?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

22a - How is soiled laundry transported from point of use to the soiled laundry collection area?

- Cart
- Chute
- No formal process for transporting soiled laundry
- Other

22b - Are the laundry chutes maintained under negative pressure to prevent the spread of microorganisms?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

23 - Is the receiving (dirty) area for contaminated textiles clearly separated by a physical barrier from clean laundry areas?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

24 - Is the receiving (dirty) area maintained at negative pressure to the clean areas of the laundry area?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

25 - Are handwashing sinks available in all areas where soiled and contaminated textiles are handled?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

26 - Are clean textiles packaged, transported, and stored in a manner that ensures cleanliness and protection from dust and soil?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

27 - Do laundry services personnel receive bloodborne pathogen education and training?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

28 - Do laundry services personnel receive education and training on methods to minimize their risk of exposure to contaminated textiles and fabrics from direct contact or aerosols?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

29 - Is PPE available at point of use for healthcare laundry personnel?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

30 - Are parameters of the laundry process met in accordance with state licensing standards or regulatory requirements?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

31 - Does the facility have the ability to perform sterilization after laundering if necessary for specific populations or use?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- Not Applicable or sent to outside facility

Answer Key

Leadership Support

1a - Does the facility have policies and procedures addressing environmental cleaning?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

1b - What is included in the Environmental Cleaning Policy and Standard Operating Procedures?

(Select all preferred options)

Clearly defined staff cleaning roles and responsibilities - **Preferred**

Cleaning & Disinfection of non-critical medical equipment - **Preferred**

Cleaning schedules - **Preferred**

Contingency plans for chemically resistant organisms - **Preferred**

Outbreak management - **Preferred**

Protocol to identify clean vs dirty - **Preferred**

Manufacturer Contact time - **Preferred**

Systematic cleaning protocol - **Preferred**

Cleaning frequency of high-touch surfaces - **Preferred**

Daily cleaning of patient rooms - **Preferred**

Cleaning to minimize dust aerosols - **Preferred**

Cleaning of blood and body fluid spills - **Preferred**

Transmission-based precautions cleaning protocols - **Preferred**

Terminal cleaning - **Preferred**

Airborne isolation cleaning protocols - **Preferred**

None of the above

Other

2 - Does the Infection Prevention program review the Environmental Services Department's policies and procedures as they pertain to infection prevention?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

3 - Does the facility have a protocol to readily identify equipment as clean or dirty?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

4a - Does the facility have checklists and standard operating procedures for environmental cleaning of specialty areas?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

What specialty areas have dedicated cleaning checklists and SOPs?

4b - Sterile Processing

Yes - Preferred

No

N/A

4c - Laboratory

Yes - Preferred

No

N/A

4d - Pharmacy

Yes - Preferred

No

N/A

4e - Dialysis

Yes - Preferred

No

N/A

4f - Burn Units

Yes - Preferred

No

N/A

4g - Intensive Care Units

Yes - Preferred

No

N/A

4h - Non-patient common areas

Yes - Preferred

No

N/A

4i - Oncology Wards

Yes - Preferred

No

N/A

4j - Obstetric Units

Yes - Preferred

No

N/A

4k - Are there additional specialty areas that have dedicated cleaning checklists and SOPs at your facility? **(Not Scored, Informational Only)**

Yes

No

4l - What additional areas have dedicated checklists and SOPs?

Admissions - Preferred

5 - Does the facility have specialty cleaning protocols for high-consequence organisms such as *Candida auris*?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

6 - Does the facility have a standardized communication method to notify EVS personnel that transmission-based precautions are in use for a patient room?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

Environmental Cleaning Program

7 - Does the IPC program participate in a chemical risk assessment for all chemicals within the facility?

Yes - Preferred

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Unsure

8 - Are the safety data sheets (SDS) readily accessible to healthcare personnel for all chemicals at the facility?

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9a - Does the IPC program have a process for cleaning and disinfection when information from the manufacturer is limited or the hospital does not carry the recommended EPA-registered hospital disinfectant?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

9b - Is there an established risk assessment when in-house EPA-registered hospital disinfectants are not approved for a specific device or medical equipment?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

10 - Is EVS a member of the Infection Control Committee or Quality Improvement Committee?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

Contracted Services

11 - Does the facility externally contract its Environmental Cleaning Services (EVS)? **(Not Scored, Informational Only)**

All EVS is contracted

Some EVS is contracted

None- all EVS are performed by in-house staff

12a - Is the IPC Program involved with the EVS contract or service level agreement?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

12b - As part of the review process for the service level agreement, does the IP review: **(Select all preferred options)**

Staff training and competency - **Preferred**

Staff immunization - **Preferred**

EPA registered hospital disinfectant selection - **Preferred**

Disinfectant selection for clinical scenario or location in which it is used. - **Preferred**

Chemical Safety Data Sheets - **Preferred**

Scope of practice/ Roles and responsibilities - **Preferred**

Contingency plan cleaning - **Preferred**

None

Other

Education & Training

13a - Does the facility have a competency-based training program for environmental cleaning?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

13b - Who receives competency-based training for Environmental cleaning and disinfection? **(Select all preferred options)**

Clinical Healthcare Personnel - **Preferred**

Ancillary Services - **Preferred**

Non-clinical Healthcare Personnel - **Preferred Optional**

Clinical Support - **Preferred**

Students & Trainees - **Preferred**

Volunteers - **Preferred Optional**

Contractors - **Preferred Optional**

None

Other

13c - What is included in environmental cleaning training and education? (**Select all preferred options**)

PPE use to prevent exposure to infectious agents - **Preferred**

PPE use to prevent exposure to chemicals - **Preferred**

Adherence to manufacturer IFU - **Preferred**

Wet Time - **Preferred**

Systematic cleaning procedures, if applicable to the role - **Preferred**

Cleaning checklists if applicable to the role - **Preferred**

Chemical disinfectant preparation, if applicable to the role - **Preferred**

Chemical disinfectant selection and use - **Preferred**

Daily cleaning procedures - **Preferred**

High-touch surface cleaning procedures - **Preferred**

Blood/body fluid cleaning and disinfection procedures - **Preferred**

Other

13d - What frequency is environmental cleaning education and training provided? (**Select all preferred options**)

Upon hire - **Preferred**

Annually - **Preferred**

When new products and protocols are introduced - **Preferred**

As remediation for compliance failures - **Preferred**

Target improvement efforts - **Preferred**

None

Other

13e - Are personnel required to demonstrate competency upon completion of training?

Yes - **Preferred**

No

Unsure

13f - Does the facility maintain documentation for environmental cleaning training and education?

Yes - **Preferred**

No

Unsure

Audit & Feedback

14a - Does the facility audit adherence to environmental cleaning?

Yes - **Preferred**

No

Unsure

14b - How are environmental cleaning audits performed? (**Select all preferred options**)

Direct observation by cleaning supervisors or trained staff - **Preferred**

Visual inspection - **Preferred**

- Fluorescent markers - **Preferred Optional**
- ATP bioluminescence test - **Preferred Optional**
- Other

14c - Does the facility have a target number of observations as an environmental cleaning goal?

- Yes - Preferred**
- No
- Unsure

15a - Does the facility provide feedback from the audits to healthcare personnel?

- Yes - Preferred**
- No
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15b - Do auditor(s) provide immediate real-time feedback to healthcare personnel in the moment?

- Yes - Preferred**
- No
- Unsure

15c - Does the facility utilize environmental cleaning data to impact performance improvement?

- Yes - Preferred**
- No
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Laundry Services

16 - How does the facility perform laundry services? **(Not Scored, Informational Only)**

- Contracted Service
- Onsite
- Combination of both

17 - Does the contractor's service level agreement show evidence that the contractor's laundry service meets approved design standards for healthcare laundry?

- Yes - Preferred**
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Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

22a - How is soiled laundry transported from point of use to the soiled laundry collection area?

(Select all preferred options)

Cart - **Preferred**

Chute - **Preferred**

No formal process for transporting soiled laundry

Other

22b - Are the laundry chutes maintained under negative pressure to prevent the spread of microorganisms?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

23 - Is the receiving (dirty) area for contaminated textiles clearly separated by a physical barrier from clean laundry areas?

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No

Unsure

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No

Unsure

25 - Are handwashing sinks available in all areas where soiled and contaminated textiles are handled?

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No

Unsure

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Unsure

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Unsure

30 - Are parameters of the laundry process met in accordance with state licensing standards or regulatory requirements?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

31 - Does the facility have the ability to perform sterilization after laundering if necessary for specific populations or use? **(Not Scored, Informational Only)**

Yes

No

Unsure

Not Applicable or sent to outside facility

Guidance

Leadership Support

Core Element Description: Assessment of policies and procedures related to environmental cleaning practices within the facility.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024). Best practices for environmental cleaning in healthcare facilities: In resource-limited settings.

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthcare-associated-infections/hcp/cleaning-global/index.html>

Environmental Cleaning Program

Core Element Description: Assessment of the environmental cleaning program within the facility.

Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee. (2024). CDC's Core Infection Prevention and Control Practices for Safe Healthcare Delivery in All Settings.

<https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/hcp/core-practices/index.html>

Rutala, W.A., Weber, D.L., and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC). (2023). Guideline for disinfection and sterilization in healthcare facilities, 2008. <https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/media/pdfs/Guideline-Disinfection-H.pdf>

Free Access: Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022, August 24). Environmental Cleaning Program Improvement Toolkit: A Practical Guide for Implementing the Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning in Healthcare Facilities in Resource-Limited Settings. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/healthcare-associated-infections/media/pdfs/environmental-cleaning-toolkit-guide-508.pdf>

Contracted Services

Core Element Description: Assessment of the contracted environmental services program and personnel.

No Guidance Available - *Intentionally left blank*

Education & Training

Core Element Description: Assessment of the education and training of personnel regarding environmental cleaning.

No Guidance Available - *Intentionally left blank*

Audit & Feedback

Core Element Description: Assessment of audit and feedback practices regarding environmental cleaning.

Free Access: Guidelines

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2002) Guideline for Hand Hygiene in Health-Care Settings: Recommendations of the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee and the HICPAC/SHEA/APIC/IDSA Hand Hygiene Task Force. MMWR 2002; 51. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5116.pdf>

Free Access: Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2010). CDC environmental checklist for monitoring terminal cleaning. <https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/media/pdfs/Guidelines-Environmental-Cleaning-Checklist-2010-P.pdf>

Washer, L., Gilmartin, H.M., Olmstead, R., Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.) Hand Hygiene: Education, Monitoring, and Feedback. [PowerPoint slides]. <https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/media/pdfs/Strive-HH102-508.pdf>

Laundry Services

Core Element Description: Assessment of laundry services at the facility.

Free Access: Regulatory

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (n.d.) Hospital infection control worksheet <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/provider-enrollment-and-certification/surveycertificationgeninfo/downloads/survey-and-cert-letter-15-12-attachment-1.pdf>

Free Access: Guidelines

Sehulster LM, Chinn RYW, Arduino MJ, Carpenter J, Donlan R, Ashford D, Besser R, Fields B, McNeil MM, Whitney C, Wong S, Juranek D, Cleveland J. (2019, July). Guidelines for environmental infection control in health-care facilities. Recommendations from CDC and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC). https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/media/pdfs/guideline-environmental-h.pdf?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdf/guidelines/environmental-guidelines-P.pdf

Free Access: Resources

Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council. (2016) Checklist: Accreditation Standards. https://590ba01b-dcbf-4e77-94ad-ad2a3ff26d55.filesusr.com/ugd/076879_a2ad48dc9b1b4f88b826dafd5d4446e6.pdf

Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (2021, December 21). Laundry. <https://www.osha.gov/etools/hospitals/laundry>

Additional Guidance

Free Access: Regulatory

United States Environmental Protection Agency. (2021, December 21). Selected EPA-registered disinfectants. <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/selected-epa-registered-disinfectants>

Free Access: Guidelines

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024, March 19). Environmental cleaning supplies and equipment. <https://www.cdc.gov/healthcare-associated-infections/hcp/cleaning-global/supplies-and-equipment.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024, March 19). Appendix D: Linen and laundry management. <https://www.cdc.gov/healthcare-associated-infections/hcp/cleaning-global/appendix-d.html>

Rutala, W.A., Weber, D.L., and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC). (2023). Guideline for disinfection and sterilization in healthcare facilities, 2008. <https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/media/pdfs/Guideline-Disinfection-H.pdf>

Free Access: Standards

Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council. (2023). Accreditation standards for processing reusable textiles for use in healthcare facilities. https://hlacnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/HLAC_AccreditationStandards_09-21-2023.pdf

Free Access: Resources

Bennett, D., Calfee, D.P., Carrico, R., Association for the Healthcare Environment. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2021. Cleaning and disinfection strategies for non-critical surfaces and equipment. <https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/media/pdfs/Strive-EC102-508.pdf>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024, April 3). CDC/STRIVE Infection Control Training. https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/hcp/training/strive.html?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/training/strive.html

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2021, December 21.) Quick observation tools (QUOTs) for infection prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/media/pdfs/All-Quick-Observation-Tools-P.pdf>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d). Environmental cleaning and disinfection: Principles of infection transmission and the role of the environment. [PowerPoint slides]. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/media/pdfs/Strive-EC101-508.pdf>

Purchase Required: Guidelines

Association for the Health Care Environment. Practice guidance for health care environmental cleaning (3rd ed.). Association for the Health Care Environment. <https://www.ahe.org/practiceguidance>

Purchase Required: Resources

Schweon, S. J., Yassin, M. H. (2025, April 28). Environmental Services. In Boston K.M., et al, eds. APIC Text. <https://text.apic.org/toc/infection-prevention-for-support-services-and-the-care-environment/environmental-services>

McLay, C. (2024, April 17). Healthcare textile services. In Boston K.M., et al, eds.

APIC Text. 2016. <https://text.apic.org/toc/infection-prevention-for-support-services-and-the-care-environment/healthcare-textile-services>