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Guidance: The room/area is cleaned working from high to low areas. Cleaning from high to low areas allows for cleaning of contaminants that may fall from high to low surfaces and mitigates the risk of crosscontamination.

Guidance: If there is more than one patient in the care area, use fresh cloth(s) for each bay/room and complete the cleaning in one bay/room before moving to the next bay/room.

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Guidance: Activities that create turbulence spread micro-organisms in the environment. Turbulent techniques include practices such as shaking a mop/cloth or using a spray delivery system. Applying chemicals by aerosol or trigger sprays can also result in eye injuries or



Guidance: Contact time (also known as dwell or wet time) is the time a disinfectant should remain wet on a surface to kill that microorganisms that are in the claim label. If the contact time is not met, the surface has not been effectively disinfected. Contact times can be found on the disinfectant label and can vary widely between disinfectants.

Guidance: Cloths/wipes are changed when they are visibly soiled and when they have been used to clean an item/surface (i.e. when they have left the surface). One side of a reusable cloth is used to clean an item/surface (e.g. bed). The second side of a reusable cloth is used to continue to clean the same item/surface (e.g. bed). Once both sides have been used and/or the cloth is visibly dirty, the cloth is changed. The same cloth cannot be used to clean two different items/surfaces (e.g. bed then blood pressure cuff).



Guidance: Contact time (also known as dwell or wet time) is the time a



Guidance: A standardized approach ensures all surfaces are optimally cleaned and disinfected.

Guidance: Cleaning cards and/or checklists can either be carried on the cleaning cart and/or posted in each room/area. The cards/checklists are laminated.

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Guidance: Sinks are cleaned from the least contaminated areas to the most contaminated area. Taps are to be cleaned first. It is recommended that three different cloths be used: 1) to clean the tap, 2) to clean the sink and 3) to clean the area around the tap and sink.







Guidance: Windows that can open create problems with ventilation, cleaning and security. Windows and window frames with tracks or crevices can trap dirt and cannot be adequately cleaned. Windows are made with materials and methods that resist moisture and mold. Window frames are without ledges and joints. Windows are completely sealed and airtight.

Guidance: The flooring is a single large surface that is unbroken and free of fissures, cracks, or crevices. Poured-in place flooring applications such as fluid applied epoxy and poured epoxy are monolithic. Sheet vinyl and linoleum flooring with heat-welded or chemically bonded seams are also considered monolithic. Tile flooring is not monolithic. No floor drains or electrical receptacles are placed in the floor.

Guidance: Integral coving is the extension of the monolithic flooring up the wall forming a wall base. It is to extend 230 mm (nine inches) up the wall. The back of the floor covering where the floor meets the wall is supported (i.e. constructed without a gap behind, cove stick or support used) to prevent distortion or slipping of the flooring material. The integral coved base is tightly sealed against, or finished flush with, the wall.

Guidance: Materials such as wood, granite and laminate products allow ingress of water or chemical solutions. Stainless steel is recommended as it is easy to clean and able to withstand surfacecleaning agents. Laminate-type countertops specified by the manufacturer as being suitable for laboratory use are acceptable.



Guidance: Backsplashes do not need to be integral with the sink; however, backsplashes must be seam free. The backsplash must include the area under the soap and paper towel dispensers and extend at minimum 600 mm (2 ft) above sink level and extend to meet the cove base below.



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