

## Hospitals and Clinics

### Toy and Play Equipment Cleaning

---

<b>Policy Number:</b>	1205.00
<b>Category:</b>	IC
<b>Site:</b>	System
<b>Responsible for Review:</b>	Infection control committee
<b>Effective Date:</b>	06/14/99
<b>Next Review Date:</b>	06/14/01

---

**Policy:** Toys, video games, computer and video carts, and other recreational materials for patients will be routinely cleaned and disinfected in order to reduce the transmission of infectious agents to patients and staff. All such items will receive appropriate level of disinfection/cleaning.

---

#### Definition(s):

**Toys:** The term "toys" will be used generically throughout this document to include all play equipment, toys, and recreational items used by patients in the inpatient and outpatient areas.

#### Procedure:

**NOTE:** Refer to the cleaning/disinfection procedure in the environmental department manual for toy cleaning

1. Stuffed toys cannot be adequately cleaned/disinfected and are to be donated to the patient on discharge.
2. All health care workers (i.e. nursing, child life, environmental service personnel) are accountable to remove "toys" they have observed being mouthed or contaminated with a patient's secretions/excretions. The "toys" will be immediately disinfected OR placed in a soiled utility area to be cleaned/disinfected before use by another patient.

#### Inpatient Rooms, Daily Procedure:

1. All "toys" will be disinfected between patient use. (See ESA/environmental service procedure for toy cleaning.
2. All HCW's will be responsible for disinfecting commonly shared inpatient "toys" before use by another patient: Examples include: Nintendo control pads, hand held video games, high chairs, strollers, etc.

#### Inpatient Rooms, Terminal Cleaning

Environmental Services (ESA's) have primary responsibility to remove and clean toys from patient rooms on discharge. CSA's are to assist when not involved with patient care activities. This includes highchairs, floor mats, strollers and wagons.

**Note:** Due to high census there may be occasions when toys are placed in soiled utility rooms to be cleaned/disinfected on p.m. shift or the next day. The ESA will

communicate this to the supervisor and the next shift.

**Placement of cleaned "toys":**

All properly cleaned "toys" should be returned to a table or countertop in the playroom (in PICU's, return to toy carts) with the exception of the following items which need to be secured or pose a choking hazard:

- Lego sets and small lego blocks
- Infant mobiles
- Hand-held video/battery-operated games
- Electronic toys
- Art materials such as beads, sand, buttons, paint that is not waterproof
- Other items small enough to pose a choking hazard

The above -listed items should be returned to baskets marked "Clean Toys". Location of basket for each unit will be posted at that unit's playroom, nurse's desk, and/or environmental services closet.

**Patient Care  
Waiting Areas,  
Inpatient and  
Outpatient:**

Environmental Services cleans/disinfects toys at least weekly in patient care waiting areas including but not limited to:

- ED/SSU/Radiology/Inpatient Rehab/Lab
- Day Surgery Center
- NICU Family Lounge
- Children's Clinic and Hematology/Oncology Clinic waiting areas
- Main lobby waiting room
- Surgery waiting areas
- Teen Area in Clinic, campus
- PICU's

**Playrooms:** Environmental services will clean/disinfect all toys in common playrooms at least Weekly. Playroom and toy locations:

Campus	3200, plus Teen Room 4200 General Pediatric Clinic Specialty Clinic Pediatric Epilepsy department Day Surgery Short Stay Unit Rooms on 3100 Bay Area play space, emergency dept. PACU Apnea unit
--------	--

Unit 8 Unit 7 Unit 6 PCC Children's Clinic Sibling Play Area Short Stay Unit
--

1. Environmental Services will clean/disinfect play kitchens, play food and utensils, riding toys, mounted toys or free-standing video games, and tub toys on a **DAILY** basis..
2. Maintenance is to be contacted for wooden toys that need repair/refinishing.

**Therapy and Treatment** Environmental services will clean/disinfect toys on a **daily** basis as they clean the room. Treatment Room locations:

- Rooms:**
- Rehabilitation
  - Children's clinics
  - Hematology/oncology clinics
  - Emergency departments

**Play Therapy Toys:** Child life is accountable for cleaning/disinfection of puppets and dolls used in play therapy. These items are sent out for dry cleaning/laundry per established protocols in child life.

**Outpatient Rehab Services:** Outpatient rehab services is accountable for following department protocols regarding the following:

1. Ball Pits from West and Twin Lakes are sent to Minneapolis environmental services for cleaning/disinfection on a quarterly basis or as needed if soiling occurs. Any therapy balls observed being mouthed or contaminated with the patient's secretions/excretions are removed and placed in a area to be disinfected.
2. Tactile bean/rice boxes are replaced on a quarterly basis or as needed if soiling occurs.
3. Accountabilities for the cleaning of toys in these outpatient areas is determined by the site manager.

**References:** Hospitals and Clinics infection control practitioners  
Toy and equipment cleaning task force

**Key Words:** toys; stuffed animals; cleaning; disinfection

**Review / Revision** New system policy: 3/15/99  
Revised system policy: 6/14/99

**Dates:**

**Approval Group(s)**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Date</b>
Infection Control	6/14/99
Leadership	6/14/99
PCPC	5/11/99