

Agents Approved for Cleaning and Low-Level Disinfection of Environmental Surfaces and Non-Critical Devices

POLICY 5.5

Patient Care

Agents for Cleaning and Low- Level

Disinfection

Issued: 09/1989

Last Approval: 05/2025

Office of Origin: Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Prevention (HEIP)

I. PURPOSE

- A. To list the indications and products that are approved for cleaning and low-level disinfection of environmental surfaces and non-critical reusable medical devices at UCSF Medical Center.

II. REFERENCES

- A. CDC Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare Facilities, 2008. Rutala W, Weber. CDC Hospital Infection Prevention Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC), June 2024. <https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/media/pdfs/guideline-disinfection-h.pdf>
- B. UCSF Medical Center Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Prevention Policy 4.11 [Processing and Storage of Reusable Patient Care Devices](#)
- C. UCSF Medical Center Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Prevention Policy 5.3 [Toy Cleaning](#)
- D. UCSF Medical Center Environment of Care Manual [Policy 2.01.02 Patient Care Equipment Cleaning: Inpatient, Ambulatory, and Diagnostic Testing Areas](#)
- E. UCSF Medical Center [Hospitality Services Procedure Manual](#)

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Cleaning:** The removal of visible dirt, soil, and any other material. Thorough cleaning is needed for effective disinfection or sterilization
- B. **Contact Time:** The amount of time a disinfectant needs to sit on a surface, without being wiped away or disturbed, to effectively kill microorganisms as specified on the product label
- C. **Low-Level Disinfection:** A process that kills most vegetative bacteria, some viruses, and some fungi, but cannot be relied on to kill mycobacteria or bacterial spores
- D. **Manufacturer's Instructions for Use (MIFUs):** In compliance with the FDA's labeling requirements, manufacturers of medical devices provide specific instructions for cleaning and disinfection or sterilization. MIFUs include the steps required for cleaning, disinfection (including the level of disinfection) or sterilization, frequency of processing, the products that are compatible for use the device/instrument, and other device or instrument management requirements. Requirements may include updated practice recommendations issued through manufacturers' communications.
- E. **Non-critical Patient Care Item:** Based on the Spaulding classification/categories of patient care items, these are reusable medical devices that encounter only intact skin. These items should be low-level disinfected between uses.
- F. **Sanitizing agent:** A product that reduces the number of but does not necessarily eliminate bacteria on environmental surfaces

IV. POLICY

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- A. Environmental surfaces and reusable non-critical patient care devices must be cleaned and disinfected or sanitized in accordance with evidence-based guidance and MIFU to minimize the risk of healthcare-associated infections resulting from device contamination and provide safe patient care.
- B. Applies to all UCSF Medical Center staff and learners who perform cleaning, low-level disinfection, or sanitizing of environmental surfaces or reusable non-critical patient care devices.
- C. Agents for cleaning and disinfection at the UCSF Medical Center will be reviewed by Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Prevention (HEIP) for appropriateness and are approved by the Infection Prevention Committee.
 - 1. For approved agents in specialized areas (e.g., Pharmacy, Cellular Therapy Laboratory, SPD, and Endoscopy), please refer to the department specific policies for additional information.
- D. All sanitizing and disinfectant products (including disposable wipes) must be used in accordance with the product's MIFU including specifications regarding dilution, storage, shelf-life, and contact time and the non-critical patient care device MIFU.

V. PROCEDURES

- A. See Appendix A for the table of agents approved sanitizing and low-level disinfection of environmental surfaces and reusable non-critical patient care devices; agents must be consistent with device MIFUs.
- B. Cleaning and low-level disinfection:
 - 1. Reusable non-critical medical devices (e.g., glucometers, oximeter probes) must be cleaned and disinfected according to MIFU after each use and when visibly soiled.
 - 2. Use a hospital-approved low-level disinfectant that is consistent with the device's MIFU.
 - 3. If you have equipment compatibility questions, open an [MCSS Help Desk](#) ticket with Clinical Technologies.
 - 4. If a hospital-approved disinfectant consistent with MIFU is not available, consultation with HEIP is required.
 - 5. Don gloves and clean surface to remove visible dirt, soil, and any other residue present.
 - 6. Disinfect surface using friction and allow surface to remain undisturbed for the designated contact time.
 - 7. Sanitizing and disinfectant products, including disposable wipes, must be used in accordance with the sanitizing or disinfectant product's specifications including appropriate dilution, storage, shelf-life, and contact time.

VI. RESPONSIBILITY

- A. Questions about the implementation of this policy should be directed to HEIP.

VII. HISTORY OF POLICY

- A. Revised 9/89, 8/91, 8/92, 12/94, 4/01, 4/02, 3/04, 1/05, 9/13, 2/16, 7/22, 5/25

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VIII. APPENDIX**A. Appendix A: Table of UCSF Medical Center-approved agents for sanitizing and low-level disinfection**

Indication	Product	Active Ingredient	Use/Location	Contact Time
<i>Low Level Disinfection</i>	Preferred disinfectant, recommended for most equipment and environmental surfaces			
	Metrex CaviWipes™ HP	Hydrogen Peroxide	Routine Surface Disinfection	1 minute
	Alternative disinfectants to be used only when the preferred disinfectant is not an option based on the device MIFU			
	Metrex Cavicide™	Isopropanol, Quaternary Ammonium Compounds (Quats)	Routine Surface Disinfection	3 minutes
	PDI Sani-Cloth® AF3	Quaternary Ammonium Compounds (Quats)	Routine Surface Disinfection	3 minutes
	PDI Sani-Cloth® Plus	Quaternary Ammonium Compounds (Quats)	Routine Surface Disinfection	3 minutes
	Clorox Healthcare™ Bleach Germicidal Wipes	Sodium Hypochlorite	Approved only for POCT	3 minutes
	Ecolab Oxycide™	Hydrogen Peroxide, Peroxyacetic Acid	Routine Surface Disinfection (Hospitality only)	3 minutes
	Ecolab Virasept™	Hydrogen peroxide, Octanoic acid, Peroxyacetic acid (Peracetic acid)	Approved only for drains (Facilities only)	4 minutes
<i>Sanitizing</i>	PDI Sani Professional No-Rinse Sanitizing Multi-Surface Wipes	Quaternary Ammonium Compounds (Quats), Ethyl Alcohol Isopropyl Alcohol	Approved only for unit-based pantries, food, breastmilk, and formula preparation areas	1 minute
	Gojo Purell® Foodservice Surface Sanitizing Wipes	Ethyl Alcohol, Isopropyl Alcohol	Approved only for unit-based pantries, food, breastmilk, and formula preparation areas	1 minute
	Ecolab Oasis 146 Multi-	Quaternary	Approved only	1 minute

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	Quat Sanitizer	Ammonium Compounds (Quats)	for Nutrition and Food services (NFS) kitchen, food, breastmilk, and formula preparation areas	
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B. Appendix B: Low-level Disinfection Products Guide

UCSF Health Environment of Care

Low-level Disinfection Products Guide

Metrex CaviWipes™ HP



Active Ingredient: Hydrogen Peroxide
Use/Location: Routine Surface Disinfection
Contact Time*: 1 minute
SDS link: [Metrex CaviWipes™ HP](#)

PDI Sani-Cloth®



Sani-Cloth® AF3 Sani-Cloth® Plus
Active Ingredient: Quaternary Ammonium Compounds (Quats)
Use/Location: Routine Surface Disinfection
Contact Time*: 3 minutes
SDS links: [Sani-Cloth® AF3](#), [Sani-Cloth® Plus](#)

Metrex CaviCide™



Active Ingredient: Isopropanol, Quaternary Ammonium Compounds (Quats)
Use/Location: Approved **ONLY** for equipment that can be damaged by other disinfectants (**If you have equipment compatibility questions, open MCSS Help Desk ticket w/ Clinical Engineering.**)
Contact Time*: 3 minutes
SDS link: [Metrex CaviCide™](#)

Ecolab Oxycide™



Active Ingredient: Hydrogen Peroxide, Peroxyacetic Acid
Use/Location: Routine Surface Disinfection (Hospitality only)
Contact Time*: 3 minutes
PPE: Gloves, full sleeve clothing, and eye/face protection.
Safe work practice: Avoid pooling of solution. Work in a well-ventilated area. Keep a safe distance when using wipes. Keep unused wipes in sealed lidded container.
Disposal: Open [MCSS Help Desk ticket](#) under Hazardous Waste disposal for discarding **Used and Unused** containers of Oxycide.
SDS link: [Ecolab Oxycide™](#)

Clorox Healthcare™ Bleach Germicidal Wipes



Active Ingredient: Sodium Hypochlorite
Use/Location: Point of Care Testing (POCT) devices
Contact Time*: 3 minutes
SDS link: [Clorox Healthcare™ Bleach Germicidal Wipes](#)

***Contact Time:** the amount of time a disinfectant needs to sit on a surface, without being wiped away or disturbed, to effectively kill germs

Always wear gloves when using wipes and remember....
NO WIPES DOWN THE PIPES!

Disposal Instructions

Used Disinfecting Wipes	Unused Product & Non-Empty Containers
Used Wipes → Regular Trash	Disinfecting Wipes & CaviCide → Blue Pharmaceutical Waste Bin
Used Wipes with Blood → Red Bag	Undiluted Oxycide → Hazardous Waste

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