Disinfectant Wipe Alternatives-Acute Care Setting

May 18, 2020

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for alternatives when disposable, pre-saturated disinfectant wipes are unavailable.

Key Considerations

- Value analysis / Supply Chain will monitor inventory of disinfectant wipes and notify EVS, IPs and others when alternative disinfectants and materials are needed.
- IP and EVS will select and order disinfection and application product(s) for efficacy, appropriateness and availability.
  - Principles of this selection will be consistent with System Disinfection of Inanimate Surfaces and Equipment, e.g. EPA-registered surface disinfectant.
- EVS will continue to maintain a minimum thirty-day supply on hand at each hospital, inventoried and monitored daily.
- The below table describes the procedure that will provide the alternative to disinfectant wipes.
- Colleagues and clinicians using the alternative product will be notified and made aware of the instructions for use for the alternative disinfectant(s).

Clinical Area Options

Acute Care Clinical Setting:

- Microfiber cloth with added, EPA-registered surface disinfectant
  - Ready-to-use dilution of disinfectant solution will be prepared by EVS and one of the following procedures will be followed:
    - **If Oxycide is used, Environmental Services colleagues will follow all applicable policies and procedures regarding the mixing, dispensing and use of the product.**
    - **Method 1:** Containers with the appropriate amount of disinfectant added to correctly saturate reusable, microfiber cloths will be provided to patient care areas.
    - **Method 2:** Containers, microfiber cloths, and ready-to-use bottles of the disinfectant will be distributed by EVS to designated patient care units and other locations.
      - Disinfectant is added to microfiber cloth. Do not oversaturate.
      - Surfaces should be wiped with disinfectant-moistened cloth.
      - Surfaces should remain wet for appropriate contact time (see table below).
      - A collection bin will be set up in each unit/department for collection of soiled microfiber cloths.
  - Spray disinfectant (Ready to use spray with microfiber cloths).
    - **NOTE:** Oxycide, Virasept, dilute bleach solution and other sporicidal disinfectants are not appropriate for use in spray form.
Do not spray disinfectant in the presence of, or near, patients; spray the disinfectant onto the cloth first in a well-ventilated area and then apply to the area to be cleaned/disinfected.

- Spray bottles with disinfectant solution will be prepared by EVS.
- Spray bottles and microfiber cloths will be distributed by EVS to designated locations.
- Microfiber cloths should be sprayed with disinfectant.
- Surfaces should then be wiped with disinfectant-moistened microfiber cloth following instructions for use for the disinfectant in the spray bottles.
- Surfaces should remain wet for appropriate contact time (see table below)

**Outpatient Clinical Setting:**
- Refer to Disinfectant Wipe Alternative-Outpatient setting procedure (In process).

**Microfiber Cloth Alternatives**

Microfiber cloths are the preferred cloth for cleaning and disinfecting surfaces. If necessary, microfiber may be substituted with the following:
- 1st-clean wash cloths
- 2nd-clean surgical cloths
- 3rd-disposable paper towels

**Disinfectant Product Table-Acute Care Clinical Settings**

*Products are prioritized based on preferred products and anticipated availability.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Disinfectant</th>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Dwell time (min)***</th>
<th>Shelf Life**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Oxycide*</td>
<td>EVS will provide</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Adhere to label guidelines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Quarternary Ammonia</td>
<td>EVS will provide</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Adhere to label guidelines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Virasept*</td>
<td>Ready to Use</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Adhere to label guidelines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Dilute Bleach solution*</td>
<td>EVS will provide</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Adhere to label guidelines</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Effective against C difficile.
**EVS will rotate and label products distributed based on expiration date and dwell time
***Time surface must remain wet for disinfectant to be effective

For questions or concerns, please reach out to your Environmental Services Manager or Regional Environmental Services Manager