

## Staff Huddle: Environmental Controls-Carpet, Textiles and Spills

### Week #1-Carpet

- Germs are found in body fluids, on the skin, and even transported in the air and found on dry surfaces like carpet.
- Many of the germs that live on dry surfaces can live for a very long time – days or even weeks.<sup>4</sup>
- These germs can spread through direct and indirect touch <sup>3,4</sup>
- By knowing that germs can live in carpet and spread through touch, we can take actions to prevent the spread to protect ourselves and our clients.<sup>9,10</sup>

### Infection Prevention and Carpet<sup>1,3.</sup>

- Avoid use of carpeting in high-traffic zones in patient-care areas or where spills are likely (e.g., burn therapy units, operating rooms, laboratories, and intensive care units).
- Vacuum carpeting in public areas of health-care facilities and patient-care areas regularly. Use well-maintained equipment designed to minimize dust dispersion.
- Periodic deep cleaning of carpeting per facility guidelines—should be at least once a year, but more often is better especially in higher traffic areas.
- Follow facility policies and procedures. Observe the contact times and follow cleaning instructions on the product being used, EPA has an approved disinfectant list.<sup>9</sup>



### Week #2 - Infection prevention and Upholstered furniture, drapes, curtains

- Avoid the use of upholstered furniture and furnishings in high-risk patient-care areas and areas with increased potential for body fluids or spills (e.g., pediatrics units or areas with increased body fluid and spill risk).<sup>1,3,6</sup>
- Maintain the surface of upholstery by repairing tears and holes.
- If upholstered furniture in a patient's room requires cleaning to remove visible soil or body fluids, move that item to a maintenance area where it can be adequately cleaned with a process appropriate for the type of upholstery and the nature of the soil.
- Use appropriate cleaning supplies based on the type of fabric you are cleaning and the facility's procedures.



### Week #3 Infection Control of Spills including blood/body fluids

- Wear appropriate PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) per facility policy.<sup>1,3,6</sup>
- Confine the spill and wipe it up with absorbent (paper) towels, cloths, or, if available, absorbent granules that are spread over the spill to solidify the blood or bodily fluid. All blood and body fluid waste should then be disposed as infectious waste.
- Clean and disinfect any spill immediately or as quickly as possible.
- Allow the disinfectant to remain wet on the surface for the required contact time as stated on the product label before wiping.

- Follow proper facility procedures for managing spills on carpet.
- If a spill occurs on carpet tiles, may replace any tiles contaminated by blood and body substances.

Germs live on surfaces including carpet and textiles (furniture, curtains/drapes etc.), These germs can be there for days or weeks and spread through touch to clients. You can do infection control actions to reduce the spread of germs.



## References:

1. CDC: Environmental Infection Control Guidelines: <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/environmental/index.html#d>
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4. CDC: Infection Control: Germs Live in the Environment: <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/projectfirstline/healthcare/germs-environment.html>
5. CDC: Project Firstline: Infection Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/projectfirstline/index.html>
6. Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities: Recommendations of CDC and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC): <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5210a1.htm>
7. CDC's Core Infection Prevention and Control Practices for Safe Healthcare Delivery in All Settings: [https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/core-practices/index.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fhicpac%2Frecommendations%2Fcore-practices.html](https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/core-practices/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fhicpac%2Frecommendations%2Fcore-practices.html)
8. CDC: Infection Control: Print Materials and Job Aids from Project Firstline: <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/projectfirstline/healthcare/print.html>
9. Selected EPA-Registered Disinfectants | US EPA; <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/selected-epa-registered-disinfectants>
10. How To Read A Label: [https://www.epa.gov/system/files/images/2022-09/HowToReadALabel-508c-Final-2022-08-30%20%28005%29\\_1.png](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/images/2022-09/HowToReadALabel-508c-Final-2022-08-30%20%28005%29_1.png)