How To Clean Those Dirty Little Things: Part I

All Things Yucky

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Definitions

- Sterilization: complete elimination or destruction of all forms of microbial life (definitely dead)
- Disinfection: elimination or destruction of almost everything (spores intact to grow when conditions favorable)
- Cleaning: mechanical removal for materials (lower numbers of microbes)
## Levels Of Clean

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Device</th>
<th>Clean Level</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical: enters sterile tissue or vascular system</td>
<td>Implants, biopsy needles, surgical or procedural instruments, etc.</td>
<td>Sterilization</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Semicritical: touches mucous membranes | Flexible scopes, endotracheal tubes, laryngoscopes, etc.  
*All therapeutic tubs or tanks* | High-level disinfection                                                |
| Noncritical: touches intact skin | Stethoscopes, wheel chairs, bed rails, blood pressure cuff, etc.     | Low-level disinfection             |
Clean Categories

- Reprocessed single use: critical require sterilization
  - Policy to address
    - Do not use
    - Send to third party vendor
    - Protocol for in-house

- Sterilization
  - Policy to address
    - Methods, types of equipment and QC for each methods
    - Storage of items

- High-level and Low-level disinfection
  - Policy to address
    - EPA registered hospital grade disinfectant
    - Product label use, contact time, kill spectrum (single organism per family)
    - Effective contact time and equipment
    - Storage of items
Cleaning frequency

- Use single use items one time
- 5 second law does not apply in healthcare
- Clean patient care items after each use
- Clean visible blood or body fluids immediately
All Things Clean

● Storage
  - Store sterile and clean items appropriately: clean with clean
  - Inspect packaging for breaches
  - Inspect packing for lot/date

● Transport of clean and contaminated items

● Follow manufacturer recommendations for maintaining and cleaning equipment and instruments

● References:
  - CDC HICPAC: Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in health-Care Facilities
  - 902 KAR 20:016 Hospitals; Operation and Services