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# Shared Bathing Facilities Cleaning and Disinfecting

## Purpose

To provide a common set of IPAC recommendations for the use of shared tubs and showers for all patients/residents/clients in IH. This document will use 'patient' to encompass all of these terms.

*Note: These guidelines refer to basic, non-jetted, household-style tubs used for shower bathing. Soakertubs (e.g. ARJO tubs) and hydrotherapy tubs require specific cleaning & disinfection procedures as per manufacturer directions. Refer to your site procedures for cleaning & disinfection.*

## Cleaning & Disinfecting – Two Step Process

### 1. Clean

Use IH approved product to remove any foreign matter (dust, soil, food, feces, blood, sputum) with a rub/scrub motion. Clean from cleanest area to dirtiest area. Use as many wipes as necessary to get the job done.

### 2. Disinfect

Immediately following cleaning using new wipes and friction and rub/scrub motion followed by maintaining a 'wet contact time'. Item then air dries to complete the disinfection process.

## Environmental Services (EVS)

Clean and disinfect daily and after isolation patient, ensuring outside of tub is cleaned and disinfected.

## Clinical Staff

Clean and disinfect between non-isolation patients/residents.

## Before Bathing:

- Only bring in items as needed for each patient. Do not store additional items or equipment inside the tub or shower room.
- DO NOT share personal care items between patients
  - Label personal items (e.g., shampoo, lotion, soap, razor, hairbrushes, nail clippers etc.) with patient name and store in their room. Bring into shower room only as needed to bathe. Discard on discharge or send home with patient **OR**
  - Decant enough product from multiuse bottle for single patient into a medication cup. Store multiuse bottles in clean area protected from contamination. Label with date opened and discard after 28 days
  - In Long Term Care and Community Settings, personal items may be stored inside tub rooms with review and approval from IPAC (i.e. wire shelving greater than 2 metres/6 feet from splash zone)
- Discard any unlabelled or empty personal care items left unattended.
- Remove 'green is clean' identifiers from entry door & shower/bath chair before use.

## After Bathing:

- Return labelled personal care items to patient room, discard empty or unlabelled personal care items.
- Use shower head to rinse excess soap residue down the drain.
- Use a clean towel to remove excess water.
- Place any remaining towels/linens in soiled linen hamper.
- Use Accel Intervention wipes to clean, then disinfect (in order):
  - Shower head & hose
  - Shower lever/faucet handle
  - Towel bar & grab bars
  - Tub (if used) \*
  - Shower bench or bath chair
- Mark shower or bath chair with sticker or tape to identify 'green is clean'
- Mark entry door with sticker, sign or tape to identify 'green is clean'

## Isolation Patient/Resident:

- Schedule for end of day whenever possible.
- Place isolation precaution sign on door to tub/shower room.
- Request EVS cleaning & disinfection.
- EVS to remove isolation sign when cleaning & disinfection complete.

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