



# Manual washing of bedpans and urinals

LCC IPC Guidance

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## Manual washing of bedpans and urinals

Research has shown that there is a risk of health care associated infections being caused by poorly cleaned bedpans and urinals.

The gold standard for the cleaning and disinfection of bedpans and urinals is via a washer disinfectant that reaches temperatures of 80° Celsius for one minute.

Many care homes do not have an automated washer disinfectant and the cleaning of used bedpans and urinals is carried out manually.

In homes that do not have a washer/disinfectant infection prevention practices must be strictly adhered to, to minimise the risk of cross infection.

### **Method**

- A risk assessment and record of agreed procedures must be in place to ensure that a consistent method is employed by all staff.
- Staff must wear PPE (disposable gloves and apron). If splashing is unavoidable, face protection should also be worn
- All used bedpans, commode inserts, urinals and jugs must be covered with disposable paper towel or paper bedpan cover prior to returning to the sluice for cleaning.
- The contents should be emptied into a sluice hopper and flushed immediately. If the home does not have a hopper then empty the bedpan into a toilet. Staff must ensure that the toilet is left clean and no splashes have occurred.
- Where possible, equipment should be immersed under water in a deep sink to reduce splashing preferably in a dirty utility or sluice room.
- The sink should not be used for any other purpose than cleaning dirty equipment e.g. not a hand wash basin, hands must never be washed at this sink.
- A biological cleaning solution or detergent and warm water (not exceeding 35°) should be used.
- Use a disposable cloth or soft brush for the process.
- After cleaning, the equipment should be rinsed and inspected. If the item remains soiled, the cleaning process must be repeated until the equipment is cleaned to a satisfactory standard.
- The item should be dried as quickly as possible using paper roll and stored inverted on racks.
- Toilet brushes should not be used to clean utensils at any time.
- Dispose of cloths and paper towels in waste bin.
- Remove PPE.
- Decontaminate hands

**During an outbreak situation of diarrhoea and vomiting or if the resident has a known gastro-intestinal infection, cleaning should be followed by disinfecting bedpans with a chlorine releasing agent diluted at 1000 ppm (Refer to National Specifications for cleanliness: Guidance on setting and measuring performance outcomes in care homes)**

Examples of chlorine releasing agents are sodium hypochlorite solution (household bleach) Milton; Chlor Clean; Haz Tabs. These products are available in different strengths. Manufacturer's guidelines for making up relevant concentrations must always be strictly followed.

### References

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GG Van Knippenberg-Gordebeke *Antimicrob Resist Infect Control*. 2013; 2(Suppl 1): P376. Published online 2013 Jun 20. doi: 10.1186/2047-2994-2-S1-P376 Dirty bedpans and MDRO: partners in crime?