STATEMENT 3.2.23 – STATEMENT ON STANDARD WIPING PROTOCOL
Undergraduate Medical Education

Approved by: Clerkship & Electives Committee
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I. PURPOSE

The focus of this hospital protocol is to ensure that when non-critical mobile clinical equipment is used by or on more than one patient, steps are taken to clean and disinfect the equipment after each use.

II. DEFINITIONS:

III. STATEMENT

1. The focus of attention is on those parts of the clinical equipment that come into direct contact with the patient’s skin.

2. Mobile non-critical care equipment is used for the care and transport of our patients and residents each day. Mobile non-critical care equipment refers to equipment that is used on/by multiple patients/residents/clients or is taken from room to room.

3. Examples of mobile non-critical care equipment include: blood pressure cups, glucometers, stethoscopes, walkers, wheelchairs and stretchers.

4. In order to reduce the risk of transmitting organisms from person to person, all staff, physicians, students and volunteers will wipe non-critical mobile equipment with a hospital-approved disinfectant in order to render it safe for use between patients/residents/clients.

5. Unless contra-indicated, CaviWipes are to be used to clean and disinfect mobile non-critical clinical equipment.

6. Disinfectant wipes will be made available and easily accessible, e.g., inside all clinic rooms and attached to mobile equipment, in order to enable staff to comply with the standard.

7. When handling CaviWipes, wear gloves or wash hands with soap and water after disposing of the wipes.

8. How to clean and disinfect:
   i. Put on gloves – if gloves are not available, wash hands with soap and water immediately after disposing of used wipes.
   ii. Take towelette out of the container provided.
   iii. Clean the surface area to remove all visible soiling.
   iv. Discard the towelette in nearby receptacle.
   v. Take another towelette out of the container.
vi. Disinfect the surface area.

vii. Discard the towelette in receptacle.

viii. Discard gloves in receptacle.

ix. Perform hand hygiene after removing gloves

x. *Wait three minutes for the full effect of the disinfectant to take place.*

9. This wiping protocol does not include the cleaning of room-dedicated or patient-dedicated equipment in ambulatory or inpatient areas. Equipment in these areas will have routine cleaning schedules in place with dedicated accountabilities that meet the citywide environmental cleaning standards and frequencies.