



HEALTH HOLDING

HAFER ALBATIN HEALTH  
CLUSTER  
MATERNITY AND  
CHILDREN HOSPITAL

<b>Department:</b>	Infection Prevention and Control Department		
<b>Document:</b>	Multidisciplinary Policy and Procedure (MPP)		
<b>Title:</b>	Incubators Cleaning and Disinfection		
<b>Applies To:</b>	Nurses and Technician		
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## 1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To provide a safe and clean environment for the baby

## 2. DEFINITIONS:

- 2.1 Neonatal incubator is a medical device used to maintain an optimal environment for the care of a newborn. Generally it is used for premature babies, meaning those born pre-term, or before 37 weeks of amenorrhea (a measure of time used in pregnancy), but also those with certain congenital diseases. Sterile and warmed to an ideal temperature, the incubators let the infants continue their normal development. The incubators are equipped with small openings, allowing the caretaker and parents to touch the baby.

## 3. POLICY:

- 3.1 A cleaning schedule should be prepared and applied. Incubator with "Infected patients" must be labeled as per the case e.g. MRSA, Hepa B, GN sepsis, etc. It must be cleaned at the same time with all necessary precautions.
- 3.2 Incubator cleaning process preferably to be done in a dedicated place by trained healthcare workers.
- 3.3 The inside and outside surfaces of the incubators should be cleaned daily using hospital approved disinfectant and according to manufacture recommendations.
- 3.4 Incubators should be disinfected between each baby.
- 3.5 There is a specific area for routine scheduled cleaning and disinfection of incubators or when required and by using approved MOH disinfectant and based on manufacturer's recommendation.

## 4. PROCEDURE:

- 4.1 Follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning, ensuring the incubator is dismantled fully as instructed to allow for thorough cleaning of all component parts, including the air inlet filter.
- 4.2 Allocate sufficient time and space (ideally a dedicated, uncluttered, clean room without equipment at risk for contamination – if not on the unit, this could be done in an alternative designated space) for incubator cleaning. It can take between 40 minutes to 120 minutes depending on the level of cleaning required and allowing for disinfectant contact and drying time.
- 4.3 Ensure all staff have received training on incubator cleaning, including principles around good cleaning methods – such as, working from clean to dirty, wipe in an 'S' shaped pattern and taking care not to go over the same area twice.
- 4.4 Clean frequent touch points (for example, door handles and latches) at least 3 times a day.
- 4.5 Clean the external surface of the incubator at least once a day, as a minimum.
- 4.6 If using the humidifier, clean the reservoir and change the water (sterile water must be used) every day. Sterilisation of the reservoir and drawer should be considered but only where this is an option in the manufacturer's instructions for use.
- 4.7 Ensure a full terminal disinfection of the incubator is done when the incubator is vacated.



- 4.8 Ensure appropriate cleaning processes, cleaning agents and disinfectants are used through regular audits.
- 4.9 If occupied for more than 7 days, undertake terminal disinfection on the used incubator at least every 7 days (neonate to be moved to a clean pre-prepared incubator).
- 4.10 Provide enough incubators to allow for one (or more) to always be ready at short notice and reduce the risk of suboptimal cleaning due to limited time and high demand.
- 4.11 Cover incubators that have been cleaned and not in use. Store in a designated area, away from any risk of contamination such as splashes from sinks.
- 4.12 Check mattresses for breaches when vacated – where possible, unzip the mattress and check the insert for any stains and replace if found to be breached.
- 4.13 If blankets are used on top of the incubator, clean and ideally replace them daily. If washed on the unit, use a minimum temperature of 65°C for 10 minutes.
- 4.14 Minimise the use of soft toys and mementos in the environment around the neonate, ensuring frequent cleaning.
- 4.15 Ensure good hand hygiene practice – clean hands in accordance with the World Health Organization's 5 moments for hand hygiene:
  - 4.15.1 before touching a patient and before a clean or aseptic procedure
  - 4.15.2 after body fluid exposure or risk, after touching a patient and after touching patient surroundings
- 4.16 Ensure safe glove usage. Gloves are single-use items and they must be removed and changed when moving from a dirty task to a clean task on the same patient, and between each patient. Avoid multitasking with the same pair of gloves on – that is from patient to linen cupboard, or workstation and back to patient.
- 4.17 Ensure parents and carers are aware of the importance of a clean environment, including equipment, in the prevention of infections.
- 4.18 Disinfecting:
  - 4.18.1 Use cleaning and disinfectant products in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions – if wipes are used they must be compatible with the surface material.
  - 4.18.2 After use, all removable parts must be washed and thoroughly cleaned with detergent.
  - 4.18.3 Rinse and dry thoroughly using disposable paper towels.
  - 4.18.4 The incubator should also be cleaned and dried.
  - 4.18.5 All parts of the incubator should be disinfected using chlorine (200-500 ppm)
  - 4.18.6 Aerate the incubator before re-use.
  - 4.18.7 Adhesive tape should not be used to stick baby information's label.
  - 4.18.8 Clean incubators should be stored properly.
  - 4.18.9 Incubator cover should be changed any time if soiled, moist, and every 7 days.

## **5. MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT:**

- 5.1 **Forms and Records:**
  - 5.1.1 N/A
- 5.2 **Materials and Equipment**
  - 5.2.1 N/A

## **6. RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- 6.1 It is the responsibility of the Infection Prevention and Control Staff to implement this policy.
- 6.2 Staff nurses must clean the incubator as per policy.

## **7. APPENDICES:**

- 7.1 N/A

## 8. REFERENCES:

- 8.1 General Directorate of Infection Prevention and Control in Healthcare Facilities (GDIPC). Infection Control Guidelines in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). 1st Edition 1442 – 2021
- 8.2 Guidance Good IPC practice for the cleaning and handling of incubators and other equipment in neonatal units Updated 27 October 2022

## 9. APPROVALS:

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