

## **I. PURPOSE**

Recognizing the importance of play and education to a hospitalized child and realizing the potential of spread of infection with shared toys, hands and person-to-person contact, the following guidelines are recommended.

## **II. POLICY**

To prevent transmission of infections by contact routes, toys used in any department, inpatient unit or practice for therapeutic, diagnostic or entertainment purposes will be cleaned/disinfected on a routine basis and when visibly soiled.

## **III. GENERAL GUIDELINES**

- A. Only toys that can be easily cleaned (plastic or non-porous) are provided.*
- B. Stuffed toys are not permitted. If a child must have a stuffed toy, it must be labeled with the child's name, used only by that child and sent home or discarded at discharge.*
- C. Mobiles that contain stuffed toys must be labeled with the child's name, used only by that child and sent home or discarded at discharge.*
- D. No special precautions are needed for magazines or books, unless visibly soiled. Items that cannot be cleaned with hospital-approved disinfectant, alcohol or soap and water must be discarded.*
- E. Toys taken into isolation will remain with the patient throughout hospitalization. When the patient is discharged, toys must be disinfected with hospital-approved disinfectant before return to a central storage area.*
- F. Stuffed toys in common areas such as halls, waiting rooms, family rooms that are used to enhance the decor are not permitted.*

## **IV. CLEANING AGENTS AND PROCEDURE**

- A. Regular soap and water for cleaning visible dirt/soil*
  - 1. Wash with soap using friction.
  - 2. Rinse with water and dry.
- B. Hospital approved disinfectant for cleaning toys that are mouthed or contaminated.*
  - 1. Wipe toys with disinfectant.
  - 2. Allow 10 minutes contact time.
  - 3. Rinse with water and dry.
- C. Alcohol (70%) for small and/or minimally soiled toys that are mouthed or contaminated.*
  - 1. Wipe with alcohol swab and allow to air dry.
  - 2. Rinsing with water is not necessary.

## **V. FREQUENCY OF CLEANING**

### *A. Inpatient*

1. Communal toys including large wheel toys are cleaned weekly and when visibly soiled.
2. Toys used in isolation are cleaned prior to their return to communal use.
3. Toys/computers used for Child Life Services will be cleaned according to their policy.

### *B. Outpatient*

1. Communal toys are cleaned weekly and when visibly soiled.
2. Toys used for testing will be cleaned after each use.
3. Computer keyboards will have plastic keyboard covers. During use, keyboards, mouse and monitors will be wiped with hospital-approved disinfectant.

## **VI. REFERENCES**

- A. Guidelines for Isolation Precautions in Hospitals, Hospital Infections Program, Center for Infectious Diseases, Center for Disease Control, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Atlanta, Georgia, 1996*
- B. Prevention and Control of Nosocomial Infections, Wenzel, R., 1987*

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