

## GUIDELINES FOR USE OF PORTABLE FANS IN UCSF CLINICAL AREAS

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**Purpose:** Portable fans can contribute to the spread of microorganisms through the air leading to healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) including respiratory virus illnesses and invasive mold infections in severely immunocompromised patients. The purpose of these guidelines for portable fan use in clinical areas is to allow limited use of portable fans as a component of heat mitigation efforts while minimizing infection risks.

### **Portable Fans Should NOT Be Used in the Following Areas and for Patients with these Conditions:**

- Rooms housing patients:
  - On Airborne, Droplet, Novel Respiratory, or Cystic Fibrosis Isolation
  - On the Hematology, Blood and Marrow Transplant, and Cellular Therapy (HBC) Service including those on 11/12 Long, patients on C6 Hematology/Oncology, C6 BMT, and other severely immunocompromised patients as determined by primary clinical teams. Exceptions may include end-of-life situations or other extenuating situations.
  - With open wounds including open chest incisions or with drainage not controlled by dressings
  - With non--healed tracheostomies
- Procedural areas including:
  - Operating rooms (ORs) or PACUs
  - Procedure rooms
- Units and patient care areas:
  - Rooms or areas designed to have directed air flow including negative pressure (Airborne Transmissible Diseases or Airborne Infection Isolation Rooms) or positive pressure rooms or areas such as protected environment rooms and ORs.
  - At BCH-San Francisco, fans should not be used except in specific situations such as end of life and as determined by the primary clinical team.
  - Hemodialysis units (unless in a private room).
- Other areas:
  - IV Pharmacy/Admixture Clean Rooms
  - Sterile Processing Department
  - Instrument Decontamination/Preparation Areas
  - Clinical Microbiology Labs (*except when required for equipment cooling*)

### **When Fans Are Used in Clinical Areas:**

- Fans should be obtained from Facilities and are single patient use.
  - Do not use fans between patients.
  - Do not allow fans to be brought in from home.
- Positioning: Fans should be placed at bed level or higher, avoiding airflow across dirty surfaces, non-intact skin, or open wounds.
- During Procedures: Fans must be turned off during any invasive or sterile procedures (e.g., IV insertions, central line insertion, dressing changes, urinary catheter insertion).
- Safety Considerations: Electrical cords should be positioned to prevent fall risks for the patient and staff.
- Semi-private rooms: Fans are strongly discouraged. If necessary:
  - Assess the roommate(s) for contraindications as described above and do not use a portable fan if any patients meet exclusion criteria
  - Position the fan away from the roommate
  - Close privacy curtains
  - Disable oscillation
- Nursing Stations: Fans are allowed only if Facilities Management confirms that temperature adjustments are not sufficient to ensure that the room/area temperature can be maintained in a range that avoids the risk of heat-related injury or illness.
- Cleaning and Maintenance:
  - At present, fans are meant to be disposable and single-patient use.
  - Areas around the fan should be cleaned daily by Hospitality.