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Standard IC.02.02.01

Program: Hospital Accreditation

The hospital reduces the risk of infections associated with medical equipment, devices, and supplies.

Introduction to Standards IC.02.01.01 through IC.02.03.01 – Implementation

The activities of infection prevention and control should be practical and involve collaboration between departments and staff. Everyone who works in the hospital should have a role and hold each other accountable. Important infection prevention and control information should be available to both staff and patients. Standard and transmission-based precautions should be used, and any outbreak of infection within the hospital should be investigated.

Rationale for IC.02.02.01

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimate that 46.5 million surgical procedures are performed in hospitals and ambulatory settings each year; this includes approximately 5 million gastrointestinal endoscopies.* Each of these procedures involves contact with a medical device or surgical instrument. A major risk of all such procedures is the introduction of pathogens that can lead to infection. Additionally, many more people are at risk of developing an infection from contact with medical equipment, devices, or supplies while seeking other health services. Failure to properly clean, disinfect, or sterilize, and use or store medical equipment, devices, and supplies, not only poses risks for the person seeking health services, but also carries the risk for person-to-person transmission of infections.

There are numerous steps involved in the cleaning, disinfecting, and sterilizing of medical equipment, devices, and supplies. It is critical that health care workers follow standardized practices to minimize infection risks related to medical equipment, devices, and supplies. In order to maintain a reliable system for controlling this process, organizations pay attention to the following:

- Orientation, training, and competency of health care workers who are processing medical equipment, devices, and supplies
- Levels of staffing and supervision of the health care workers who are processing medical equipment, devices, and supplies
- Standardization of process regardless of whether it is centralized or decentralized
- Reinforcing the process (for example, the use of placards which list the steps to be followed, according to manufacturer's guidelines)
- Ongoing quality monitoring

*: http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/guidelines/Disinfection_Nov_2008.pdf.

Elements of Performance

1. The hospital implements infection prevention and control activities when doing the following: Cleaning and performing low-level disinfection of medical equipment, devices, and supplies.*
Note: *Low-level disinfection is used for items such as stethoscopes and blood glucose meters. Additional cleaning and disinfecting is required for medical equipment, devices, and supplies used by patients who are isolated as part of implementing transmission-based precautions.*
*: For further information regarding cleaning and performing low-level disinfection of medical equipment, devices, and supplies, refer to the website of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/Disinfection_Sterilization/acknowledg.html.
2. The hospital implements infection prevention and control activities when doing the following: Performing intermediate and high-level disinfection and sterilization of medical equipment, devices, and supplies.* (See also EC.02.04.03, EP 4)
Note: *Sterilization is used for items such as implants and surgical instruments. High-level disinfection may also be used if sterilization is not possible, as is the case with flexible endoscopes.*
*: For further information regarding performing intermediate and high-level disinfection of medical equipment, devices, and supplies, refer to the website of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/Disinfection_Sterilization/acknowledg.html (Sterilization and Disinfection in Healthcare Settings).
3. The hospital implements infection prevention and control activities when doing the following: Disposing of medical equipment, devices, and supplies.
4. The hospital implements infection prevention and control activities when doing the following: Storing medical equipment, devices, and supplies.
5. When reprocessing single-use devices, the hospital implements infection prevention and control activities that are consistent with regulatory and professional standards.

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