

Reusable Equipment Reprocessing in Aged Care

Reprocessing of medical equipment in aged care is crucial for infection prevention and resident safety.

Key points include:

- Reprocessing level depends on infection risk based on item use.
- Most reusable equipment in aged care is non-critical.
- Critical and semi-critical items are typically disposable.
- Reprocess after each use and on a routine schedule.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for compatibility and methods.
- Visually inspect equipment for cleanliness and functionality before storage or use.
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Best practices:

- Train staff involved in reprocessing.
- Establish a routine cleaning schedule.
- Use appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Maintain documentation for quality assurance.

The following template is an example of a working documents which can be used as a guide and altered to meet the needs of individual environments.

Heat and chemical:

Sanitizer – For bedpan and urinal use only., Heat (hot water) sanitization only.



Disinfectors Washer -For all reusable items: bedpans, urinals, tooth mugs, bowls. Heat (hot water) and detergent sanitization.



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Cold chemical:

Disinfection of non-critical equipment is not routinely required unless the equipment has come into contact with blood or body fluids, or older person with multi-resistant or during an outbreak.

Cleaning frequency may increase during outbreak

Reusable shared Equipment	Frequency	Procedure
Shower chair 	After each use, and daily (weekly if single user)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use detergent wipes/disinfectant wipes • Wipe base and back of chair • Wipe underside of seat • Wipe chair legs <p>Include in cleaning schedule.</p>
Bedpans, urinals, urine jug 	After each use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bedpans and urinals clean and soiled must be covered with a paper cover when being transported • Contents of the bedpan or urinal must be emptied into the toilet at the point of care and not transported through the home • Place bedpan/commode pan/urinal directly into the disinfectant washer after use. • Used items should not be stacked and left on the top of the disinfectant washer
Observation machine and Blood Pressure Cuff 	After each use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check manufacturer's instruction. • Use detergent wipes/disinfectant wipes • Wipe over all parts of the machine and cuff <p>Include in cleaning schedule.</p>
Bowls Washing 	After each use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Washer Disinfector • Where there is no machine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff to wear PPE -apron and gloves <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clean bowl with warm water and detergent after each use and rinse. ○ Store bowls separately and inverted to reduce contamination

Reusable Equipment Reprocessing in Aged Care

Commodes 	After each use, and daily	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use detergent wipes/disinfectant wipes • Wipe base and back and armrests of chair • Wipe underside of seat. Wipe chair wheels and foot plates • Ensure, pan is clean post use <p>Include in cleaning schedule.</p>
Glucometer 	After each use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideally older persons have their own device • Use detergent wipes/disinfectant wipes • Check manufacturer's instruction. • Thoroughly wipe over all parts
Hoists 	After each use and daily	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use detergent wipes/disinfectant wipes • Wipe over the frames • Wipe handlebars and grips • Wipe base and wheels • Wipe controls <p>Include in cleaning schedule.</p>
Slings 	Weekly and as required (or as manufacturer's instructions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As possible: dedicate sling to client • All slings are numbered and weekly washed in accordance with their number • Care staff send the slings to the laundry on the allocated day of washing • Laundry staff mark that they have washed according to the sling number- that is on their monthly list • Use manufacturer washing instructions
Walking Frames 	After each use and daily (weekly if single user)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use detergent wipes/disinfectant wipes • Wipe over all parts of the frames including handles and legs <p>Include in cleaning schedule.</p>

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Wheelchairs 	After each use and daily (weekly if single user)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use detergent wipes/disinfectant wipes • Wipe base and back of chair • Wipe underside of seat • Wipe handle grips • Wipe wheels and foot plates <p>Include in cleaning schedule</p>
Weigh Chairs 	After each use and daily	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use detergent wipes/disinfectant wipes • Wipe base and back of chair • Wipe underside of seat and bars • Wipe handle grips • Wipe wheels and foot plates <p>Include in cleaning schedule</p>
Syringe driver 	Daily when in use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use detergent wipes/disinfectant wipes • Wipe over all surfaces and buttons • Wipe over any cords • Check the syringe driver as per instructions in the kit <p>Include in cleaning schedule</p>
General equipment	Frequency	Procedure
Linen skip frames 	After use and daily	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use detergent wipes/disinfectant wipes • Wipe the lid • Wipe the entire frame • Wipe the base and wheels <p>Include in cleaning schedule.</p>
Medication Trolley 	After use and daily	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use detergent wipes/disinfectant wipes • Wipe over all external surfaces • Take items out of draws and wipe inside draws and compartments • Wipe over wheels • Ensure there is wipes and hand gel on the trolley <p>Include in cleaning schedule.</p>

Reusable Equipment Reprocessing in Aged Care

Dressing trolley 	Before and after use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use disinfectant wipes • Wipe over top and bottom platform • Wipe frame around platforms • Wipe trolley legs • Wipe wheels Remove draws No items to be stored on the bottom shelf
Medication / Specimen fridges 	Monthly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use detergent wipes/disinfectant wipes • Remove all items out of fridge – discard any out-of-date items • Wipe all racks and shelves • Wipe containers • Wipe internal walls, ceiling and floor • Wipe external walls top and door • Defrost the freezer and manage if required Include in cleaning schedule.
Tech equipment	Frequency	Procedure
Desk and computers on wheels laptops and keyboards 	After use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use detergent wipes/disinfectant wipes • Wipe over all surfaces and buttons • Wipe over any cords and attachment • Check the device cleaning instructions
Printer 	After use and full weekly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use detergent wipes/disinfectant wipes • Wipe over all surfaces and buttons • Wipe over any cords and holders • Check the device cleaning instructions Include in cleaning schedule

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Single user equipment	Frequency	Procedure
Nebulizers 	After every use and daily	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use detergent wipes/disinfectant wipes • Wipe over the entire surface • Wipe under covers and in storage parts • Wipe over tubing and mask • Change tubing and mask weekly (or as manufacturer's instructions) • Include in cleaning schedule.
Concentrator and nasal prongs 	After each use and full monthly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older person has their own • Use detergent wipes/disinfectant wipes • Wipe over the entire surface • Wipe under covers and in storage parts • Wipe over tubing and prongs • Change tubing and prongs weekly • Include in cleaning schedule.
CPAP 	After each use and full monthly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single older person use • Use detergent wipes/disinfectant wipes • CPAP Cleaning process (as per manufacturer's instructions) • Include in cleaning schedule.
Denture cup and toothbrush holder 	After each use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each older person must have his/her own cup/holder. • Staff to wear precaution PPE -apron and gloves • Clean mugs with warm water and detergent after each use, rinse • Store in older person's bathroom

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Reference

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