

# 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.


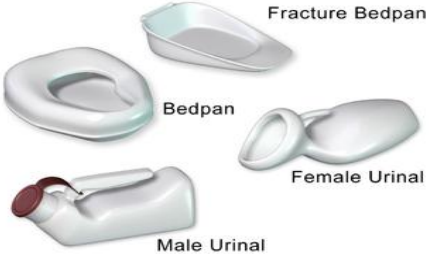




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## Cold chemical:

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





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





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

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

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

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## Reference

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. (2024). *The Aged Care Infection Prevention and Control Guide*. Accessed 20 November 2024: [https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-08/the\\_aged\\_care\\_ipc\\_guide.pdf](https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-08/the_aged_care_ipc_guide.pdf)

NHMRC. (2019). *Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Health Care*. Accessed 20 November 2024: <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/australian-guidelines-prevention-and-control-infection-healthcare>

Standards Australia. (2023). *Reprocessing of reusable medical devices and other devices in health and non-health related facilities* (AS 5369:2023). <https://www.standardsau.com/standards/as-5369-2023/>