



Reprocessing of Reusable Equipment in Aged Care Guide

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

1. 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.

2. Best practices

- Train health care workers (HCW) involved in reprocessing.
- Establish a routine cleaning schedule.
- Use appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Maintain documentation for quality assurance – as appropriate.

3. Template

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.










Cold chemical:

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 Include in routine cleaning schedule.
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 Include in routine cleaning schedule.
Bowls Washing 	After each use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Washer Disinfectant • Where there is no machine: • HCW 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







<p>Commodes</p> 	<p>After each use, and daily</p>	<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 routine cleaning schedule.</p>
<p>Glucometer</p> 	<p>After each use</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideally older person has their own device • Use detergent wipes/disinfectant wipes • Check manufacturer's instruction. • Thoroughly wipe over all parts
<p>Hoists</p> 	<p>After each use and daily</p>	<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 routine cleaning schedule.</p>
<p>Slings</p> 	<p>Monthly and as required (or as manufacturer's instructions)</p>	<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 HCW send the slings to the laundry on the allocated day of washing • Laundry HCW mark that they have washed according to the sling number- that is on their monthly list • Use manufacturer washing instructions
<p>Walking Frames</p> 	<p>After each use and daily (weekly if single user)</p>	<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 routine cleaning schedule.</p>







<p>Wheelchairs</p> 	<p>After each use and daily (weekly if single user)</p>	<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 routine cleaning schedule</p>
<p>Weigh Chairs</p> 	<p>After each use and daily</p>	<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 routine cleaning schedule</p>
<p>Syringe driver</p> 	<p>Daily when in use</p>	<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 routine cleaning schedule</p>
<p>General equipment</p>	<p>Frequency</p>	<p>Procedure</p>
<p>Linen skip frames</p> 	<p>After use and daily</p>	<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 routine cleaning schedule.</p>
<p>Medication Trolley</p> 	<p>After use and daily</p>	<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 routine cleaning schedule.</p>



<p>Dressing trolley</p> 	<p>Before and after use</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use disinfectant wipes • Wipe over top and bottom platform • Wipe frame around platforms • Wipe trolley legs • Wipe wheels <p>Remove draws No items to be stored on the bottom shelf</p>
<p>Medication / Specimen fridges</p> 	<p>Monthly</p>	<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 <p>Include in routine cleaning schedule.</p>
<p>Tech equipment</p>	<p>Frequency</p>	<p>Procedure</p>
<p>Desk and computers on wheels laptops and keyboards</p> 	<p>After use</p>	<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
<p>Printer</p> 	<p>After use and full weekly</p>	<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 <p>Include in routine cleaning schedule</p>



Single user equipment	Frequency	Procedure
<p>Nebulizers</p> 	<p>After every use and daily</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single older person use • 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.
<p>Concentrator and nasal prongs</p> 	<p>After each use and full monthly</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single older person use • 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.
<p>CPAP</p> 	<p>After each use and full monthly</p>	<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.
<p>Denture cup and toothbrush holder</p> 	<p>After each use</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single older person use • HCW to wear precaution PPE -apron and gloves • Clean mugs with warm water and detergent after each use, rinse • Store in older person's bathroom



4. References

1. Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. *The aged care infection prevention and control guide* [Internet]. Sydney: ACSQHC; 2024 [cited 2024 Nov 20]. Available from: <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/sites/default/files/resources/attachments/The-Aged-Care-Infection-Prevention-and-Control-Guide.pdf>
2. National Health and Medical Research Council. *Australian guidelines for the prevention and control of infection in health care* [Internet]. Canberra: NHMRC; 2019 [cited 2024 Nov 20]. Available from: <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/australian-guidelines-prevention-and-control-infection-healthcare>
3. Standards Australia. *AS 5369:2023 Reprocessing of reusable medical devices and other devices in health and non-health related facilities*. Sydney: Standards Australia; 2023. Available from: <https://www.standardsau.com/standards/as-5369-2023/>

5. Endorsement / Approval

Version	Date	Addition/Amendments	Author	Review By
1.0	June 2024	New resource	C Spinks IPC CNC	Aged Care IPC CNC group
2.0	Dec 2025	Addition of non-medical equipment	C Spinks IPC CNC	Aged Care IPC CNC group, Terry McAuley (Medical Device Decontamination expert)
3.0	Jun 2026	Branded and format change	C Spinks IPC CNC	Aged Care working Group

6. Contact Information

ACIPC office: office@acipc.org.au