



## **POSITION STATEMENT**

### **Cleaning and Disinfection of Non-critical Multi-use Equipment/ Devices in Community Settings**

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#### **Background**

Multi-use equipment and medical devices in health care have been linked to an increased infection risk. The practice of cleaning and disinfecting non-critical equipment in the community between clients, or even on a regular basis, has not been well established.<sup>1</sup> Outbreaks related to lapses in infection control procedures have been associated with physician offices and clinics.<sup>2</sup>

This position statement does not apply to equipment and devices deemed to be semi-critical (requiring high-level disinfection) or critical (requiring sterilization) according to Spaulding's classification.<sup>3</sup> Non-critical equipment/devices are defined by Spaulding's classification as equipment/devices that touch only intact skin and not mucous membranes, or do not directly touch the client.<sup>3</sup>

#### **Position Statement**

Each community health care organization has the responsibility to identify non-critical equipment used in the delivery of care and to ascertain the appropriate cleaning and disinfection method and frequency. Written policies and procedures need to be in place and reviewed annually. Multi-use equipment should not be purchased until it is confirmed that it can be reprocessed using established modes and products. As well, audits of cleaning and disinfection practices and the implementation of a quality improvement process related to the audit results are important. It is essential to reprocess non-critical multi-use equipment and devices appropriately, safely and consistently using an approved 'hospital-grade' low-level disinfectant which must have a Health Canada Drug Information Number (DIN).<sup>4,5,6,7,8,9,10</sup>

#### **Stakeholders**

This position statement is directed to all health care providers (HCPs) in community settings, which include, but are not limited to, homes in which health care is provided, ambulatory clinics, physicians' and other health care practitioners' offices, outreach settings and other community settings where multi-use equipment and medical devices are used.

For further information, refer to the CHICA-Canada's Practice Recommendations, *Cleaning and Disinfection of Non-critical Multi-use Equipment/ Devices in Community Settings*.

## Participants in Development of Position Statement

This position statement was developed by the CHICA-Canada 2012 Community Health Interest Group members:

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