

Key Points for Ready-to-Use (RTU) Pre-moistened Disinfectant Wipes

Note: This best practice recommendation was developed by the Infection Prevention and Control Document Revision Working Group in consultation with Contracting, Procurement and Supply Management (CPSM) representatives. If you have any questions or comments contact ipcsurvstdadmin@ahs.ca.

Best practice recommendations

Purpose

- Outline key points for the use of ready-to-use pre-moistened disinfectant wipes for cleaning and disinfecting **non-critical medical devices**, as required by the device manufacturer.
- Clarify whether one wipe can be used to perform both cleaning and disinfection.

General principles

Ready-to-Use (RTU) pre-moistened disinfectant wipes may be used for point-of-care cleaning and disinfecting of non-critical patient medical devices according to the device Manufacturer's Instructions for Use (MIFU).

Review medical device MIFU to determine which RTU disinfectant wipes are acceptable for that device. Ensure they are available where devices are cleaned and that staff are aware which wipe(s) to use.

- Contact CPSM.CustomerSupport@ahs.ca if you need assistance finding the device MIFU.
- Order acceptable RTU disinfectants through your CPSM site services contact (for inventory items) or your procurement contact (for Direct Purchase Orders).

Use RTU wipes for intended purposes only, e.g., never use on skin.

Ensure RTU wipe containers are safely stored and stocked. Clean containers if visibly soiled, keep tightly closed to maintain wipe wetness, rotate stock to ensure use before the expiry date; ensure they are not available for mistaken use, e.g., by patients who might use on skin. Discard or recycle containers as per site processes. Discard wipes if they become dry. Do not add liquid to dried wipes.

Minimize damage to medical devices due to liquid leaking into the device through seams and crevices by avoiding over-saturation. Squeeze out excess liquid from the wipe, if required, before using. Never spray or pour cleaning or disinfectant products directly onto devices.

Supply disruptions may affect availability of various RTU pre-moistened disinfectant wipes; substitutions are coordinated by CPSM. Although all AHS-provided disinfectants are effective, not all are suitable for all devices. Device MIFU must also be considered.

Considerations for the number of wipes to use

- Size of item to be cleaned and disinfected;
- Amount and condition of visible soil, e.g., easy to remove or dried on;
- Size of wipe, e.g., the wipe is large enough to clean the surface and keep it wet for required contact time to achieve disinfection;
- Appropriateness to task, e.g., RTU wipes can be used to clean smaller areas of the patient environment or to clean and disinfect non-critical medical devices but are not suitable for tasks that require large quantities of disinfectant such as general room cleaning, e.g., walls, areas outside of the immediate patient environment;

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- Adequacy of supply of RTU disinfectant wipes; and
- Education and training of staff.

General cleaning and disinfecting instructions

1. Read and follow the instructions on the RTU label, including required personal protective equipment such as gloves, **contact time**, and wipe design, e.g., whether one side can be used for cleaning and the other side for disinfecting.
2. Follow the device MIFU to ensure all required steps are included, e.g., some require a plain water wipe after the required disinfecting contact time. Ensure over-saturation is avoided with each step.
3. Clean the device with RTU wipe(s) to remove all visible soil.
4. Wipe again to disinfect, ensuring the required contact time is met (see p. 3). Follow with additional steps if required.
5. Discard RTU wipes into regular garbage. Never dispose into toilets or automated cleaner/disinfectors as they can clog and damage the sewer systems.

Can one RTU pre-moistened disinfectant wipe be used for both cleaning and disinfection steps?

Yes, when the RTU wipe label states it can be used for both cleaning and disinfection, a single RTU pre-moistened disinfectant wipe can be used to clean and disinfect a surface/device.

Pre-moistened RTU wipes with both cleaning and disinfection claims are specifically designed for this application and prevent soil permeating from one side to the other.

- One side of the wipe is used to clean the surface and the other side of the wipe is used to disinfect.
- Ensure staff know how to fold/unfold the saturated wipe to expose a clean portion for each step, e.g., wipe to clean and fold or turn over to the opposite side to disinfect.

Note: Site/Zone discretion applies. Outbreak conditions and Public Health directives may impact how cleaning and disinfection is completed.

Rationale

- This is consistent with the IPC [Principles for Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection](#) (Section 5.3): “Where a disinfectant claims to have both cleaning and disinfecting properties, the product may be used for both steps (following manufacturer’s instructions).”
- Pre-moistened RTU wipes are intended for both cleaning and disinfection and preventing soil from penetrating through one side of the wipe to the other. The cleaner/disinfectant formulation includes cleaning properties to facilitate cleaning as well as disinfectant requirements.

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Definitions

Terms	Definitions
Medical device	A device intended to prevent, diagnose, or treat health and medical conditions, as defined by Health Canada, ranging from canes to infusion pumps to ventilators.
Contact time	The length of time specified by the manufacturer, i.e., disinfectant label. A disinfectant must remain wet on a surface to be effective, i.e., achieve disinfection.
Non-critical	A reusable medical device that either touches only intact skin (but not mucous membranes) or does not directly touch the patient. Reprocessing of non-critical equipment or devices involves cleaning and may also require low-level disinfection, e.g., blood pressure cuffs, stethoscopes.
Ready-to-use (RTU) pre-moistened disinfectant wipes	Wipes that are AHS provided, pre-mixed at the appropriate concentration, saturated with disinfectant, e.g., enhanced hydrogen peroxide, bleach or hypochlorite, and used to clean and/or disinfect the patient environment or equipment.

Related IPC resources





- [Principles for Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection](#)
- [New Products and Technology](#)

References

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario), Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee. Best practices for environmental cleaning for prevention and control of infections in all health care settings. 3rd ed. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2018. Retrieved from <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/bp-environmental-cleaning.pdf>.

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Examples of disinfectants categories and available ready-to-use pre-moistened disinfectant wipes

Disinfectant category	RTU wipes product name	Contact Time
Accelerated hydrogen peroxide	Accel INTERvention™ RTU Wipes 	1 minute
	Accel PREvention™ RTU WIPES 	3 minutes
Bleach/sodium hypochlorite	Sani-cloth bleach wipes™ (Used for sporicidal cleaning) 	4 minutes
	PCS 5000 bleach wipes™ (Used for sporicidal cleaning) 	5 minutes

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Disinfectant category	RTU wipes product name	Contact Time
Quaternary ammonium	Caviwipes™ RTU 	3 minutes
Quaternary ammonium and alcohol	Super Sani-Cloth Germicidal wipes™ 	2 minutes
Isopropyl Alcohol	Kimtech Wipe™ 70% isopropyl alcohol 	3 minutes



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