

VIPER RESTRAINT CLEANING PROCEEDURE

(THIS IS ONLY A RECOMMENDATION; EACH DEPARTMENT MUST FOLLOW THEIR OWN GUIDELNES AND DEPARTMENT SPECIFIC POLICIES)

In accordance with best practices and following department policies, all medical equipment should be cleaned using approved disinfectants according to manufacturer's instructions after each use. Cleaning should be based on degree of patient contact, and degree of soiling, i.e., lightly soiled v heavily soiled.

Cleaning is the removal of foreign material (e.g., soil, and organic material) from objects and is normally accomplished using water with detergents or enzymatic products. Thorough cleaning is required before high-level disinfection and sterilization because inorganic and organic materials that remain on the surfaces of instruments interfere with the effectiveness of these processes.

Restraints are considered either single use disposable, or as shared patient equipment.

- Require cleaning followed by sterilization or laundering. These items may encounter mucous membranes or non-intact skin and should be cleaned and sterilized after each use or disposed of. If this is not possible, high-level disinfection is the minimum level of reprocessing that is acceptable.
- Any EPA-registered hospital detergent-disinfectant may be used for environmental sanitation. Manufacturer recommendations for concentration, contact time, and care in handling will be followed. Patient care equipment should be disinfected according to established CDC guidelines.
- Used cleaning solutions should be discarded and housekeeping equipment should be rinsed and allowed to dry prior to reuse.

Terms: Lightly soiled: Patient contact with **NO** visible signs of debris or bodily fluids, including but not limited to saliva, emesis, urine, and blood. (See section A)

Heavily soiled: Patient contact with visible signs of debris and bodily fluids, including but not limited to saliva, emesis, urine, and blood. (See section B)

Hard surface: All plastic components i.e., horseshoe, cam, all metal components, i.e., metal gate clip, belt tensioner and springs.

Soft surfaces: All webbing, straps, and neoprene.

- Staff should take **ANY / ALL** restraints that are visibly soiled or believed to be soiled / contaminated out of service (OOS) for cleaning.
- If restraint is lightly soiled, requiring more than just a commercial disinfectant for cleaning, the restraint **must** be removed for cleaning, placed in approved biohazard bag (red bag).
- Contaminated restraints will be left at the Wells Street station in the laundry room. The soiled equipment will be left in the plastic bin labeled "Dirty VIPER restraints."

CLEANING AND DISINFECTION, Cleaning, and disinfection of non-critical surfaces in patient-care areas are important components of routine infection prevention and control in healthcare facilities. Some surfaces, especially those closest to the patient, are more likely to be contaminated with microorganisms and may serve as reservoirs. These are known as "high touch" surfaces because they are frequently touched (e.g., bedrails, commodes, doorknobs, sinks and equipment near the patient). Adherence to a regular schedule for cleaning and disinfection will help reduce the microbial burden in a patient's environment.

For reusable washable equipment i.e., reusable restraint:

Section A: "Lightly soiled." Shall be cleaned using approved medical detergent-disinfectant with appropriate dry times according to manufactures guidelines and allowed to dry.

Section B: "Heavily soiled." After patient contact and removal of visible debris, it is recommended that the restraint be taken out of service (OOS) and placed in the approved biohazard bag and laundered in accordance with your departments policy.

Cleaning and sanitizing after use / using cleaning & sanitizing products.

First, wash surfaces with soap and warm clean water to remove dirt and debris. Next, sanitize surfaces with household bleach. It is critical to read and follow the safety instructions on any product you use. Below are the most important safety guidelines when using sanitizing products:

Never mix bleach with ammonia or any other cleaners.

- Wear rubber or other non-porous boots, gloves, and eye protection.
- Try not to breathe in product fumes. If using products indoors, open windows and doors to allow fresh air to enter.

Cleaning & Sanitizing Restraints with Bleach

Use regular, unscented household bleach with a sodium hypochlorite concentration between 5% and 9%. Wash on regular load in laundry washer safe bag and allow restraint to air-dry before being placed back in service. Restraints should be inspected after each cleaning for proper function and integrity and returned to service or removed from service and designated as needing to be replaced.