



SLSA Guideline

Title: Disinfection of Equipment
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INTRODUCTION

All reusable equipment used during SLS activities for the provision of first aid treatment or training should be disinfected appropriately after use to minimize the risk of transmission of diseases to both SLS personnel and members of the public.

BACKGROUND

The Australian Resuscitation Council has advised that standard household bleach is acceptable for use as a means of disinfecting non-disposable equipment after use. This would include pocket masks used for resuscitation (Note: one-valve valves should be replaced after patient use), resuscitation training manikins and removable faces, and any other products not designed for single use.

Bleach is a hazardous substance that can cause burns to the skin and eyes on direct contact and may also have noxious fumes that can act as an irritant. It should always be stored correctly (particularly out of the reach of children), not mixed with other chemicals, and only used in accordance with the instructions provided. Suitable protective equipment should be worn when handling bleach.

CREATING A BLEACH SOLUTION

- i. Household bleach contains the active chemical ingredient sodium hypochlorite and may be purchased as a solution, granules or tablets.
- ii. Check that the bleach product you are using yields between 1% and 10% available chlorine when used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. This will be clearly marked on the label.
- iii. If using granular or tablet forms, ensure they are completely dissolved according to manufacturer's instructions.
- iv. Liquid bleach and granular or tablet created solutions should not be used undiluted for disinfection. Add 1 part of your bleach product to 9 parts water to create a disinfectant solution that can be used safely.
- v. Bleach solutions for disinfection must be freshly prepared and cannot be stored for later use.
- vi. Bleach solutions may irritate the skin, corrode metal and bleach fabric. Always use gloves and eye protection when creating a bleach solution and take care not to spill bleach.
- vii. Ensure you are in a well-ventilated area when creating a bleach solution.
- viii. Always rinse objects and surfaces with water after disinfection to ensure that all sodium hypochlorite has been removed.

GUIDELINE

The risks of disease transmission during CPR training are extremely low. The Australian Resuscitation Council has produced Guidelines on 'Cross Infection Risks and Manikin Disinfection' that should be followed by SLS personnel. This includes practicing good hygiene (e.g. handwashing or use of antibacterial gel) and excluding anyone from using the manikins who has an obvious infection (cold or flu-like symptoms, fever, cough, sore throat, chicken pox, cold sore, impetigo) or wounds.

Cleaning and disinfection of Re-Usable Resuscitation Equipment after Patient Use

- i. Remove replaceable one-way valves and dispose in hazardous waste bag
- ii. Wash in warm soapy water
- iii. Rinse in water to remove soap residue
- iv. Soak in bleach solution created as above for 2 minutes
- v. Wash carefully in running water to remove bleach residue
- vi. Dry carefully
- vii. Replace one-way valves and store equipment ready for use

Cleaning and disinfection of Training Manikins and Accessories

During a Training Class



- i. When individual face or mouth nose pieces have been used, they should be scrubbed with a nailbrush using a detergent solution or soap and water.
- ii. They should then be rinsed in clean water and dried before disinfection procedures are carried out (soaking in bleach solution for 2 minutes, washed and dried).
- iii. Resuscitation face masks should be cleaned and disinfected in the same way as manikin face pieces. One-way valves do not have to be replaced as the masks have not been used on a patient.
- iv. The lung bag should be discarded after use into an appropriate container provided near the manikins. Instructors must ensure that trainees assume responsibility for removal of their individual face pieces and lung bags, and for disinfection of interchangeable parts.

At the End of Training Classes

- i. Each manikin must be carefully decontaminated
- ii. Disassemble the manikin as recommended by the manufacturer
- iii. Wash and scrub all accessible parts with warm soapy water. This includes face pieces
- iv. Then rinse with fresh running water
- v. Then soak in a bleach solution created as above for at least two (2) minutes. Masks used in mouth-to-mask resuscitation must be disinfected in the same solution.
- vi. Rinse again to ensure that all bleach solution has been removed
- vii. Last step is to dry all parts, powder where necessary and replace for use by the next class

Cleaning and disinfection of Surfaces

For general surface disinfection of blood or body substances the following general procedures can be used:

- i. Remove any excess bodily products and dispose of contaminants appropriately. For blood or other large amounts of bodily fluid this may involve soaking-up large spills with materials to hand. Such materials must then be disposed of as biohazardous waste.
- ii. Clean the surface with warm soapy water.
- iii. After cleaning has been completed with warm soapy water, use a bleach solution as created above to disinfect the area.
- iv. Wet the area thoroughly with your bleach solution and leave for at least 2 minutes.
- v. Rinse clean to remove any bleach solution and let the surface dry.

Cleaning and disinfection of Linen

A supply of impermeable plastic bags should be available for the disposal of contaminated clothing and debris

- i. Linen contaminated with body substances must be stored in bags which prevent leakage
- ii. This linen must be washed with detergent in hot water (at least 71 degrees C) for 25 minutes
- iii. Linen which is not contaminated can be cleaned in the same way as domestic lines
- iv. First aid rooms must be kept spotlessly clean at all times. In addition to simple cleanliness and hygiene, disinfection of instruments, floors, bed rails, switches and doorknobs, will be required frequently
- v. Patient clothing contaminated with blood or other body substances must be removed as soon as practical but this may often be left to the Ambulance Officers.

BODY SURFACES

Do not use bleach solution on your skin. Surfaces of the body exposed to blood, saliva, urine or faeces should be washed thoroughly with soap and water at the earliest opportunity. If you are considered about the transmission of disease through skin contact you should speak to your healthcare provider as soon as possible.

For further information, contact the Medical Advisor, through the SLSA national office on (02) 9215 8000.