SURF LIFE SAVING AUSTRALIA

POLICY STATEMENT
DISINFECTION OF EQUIPMENT

POLICY NUMBER 3.1 JULY 2006

BACKGROUND

The Australian Resuscitation Council (ARC) has accepted that bleach can be used for cleansing of resuscitation equipment. Consequently, all Lifesaving Services are now able to use bleach OR 70% alcoholic hibitane. It is acknowledged that the latter is not only expensive, it can usually only be obtained by hospitals.

RESEARCH

Further research is now underway by the ARC for other safe alternative cleansing agents; further information on these will become available as soon as they are approved. Bleach can only be described as a "nasty" substance, easily causing burns to skin, and especially soft tissues such as the lips and the lining of the mouth. Its use MUST be accompanied by careful guidelines to prevent deamage to the skin and mouth, as well as prevention of inhalation of its vapour that can damage the delicate tisues of the nose and the lining of the respiratory tract. It does not seem to kill all species of bacteria and will be upgraded as soon as possible; more research is currently underway.

POLICY

Gloves and protective attire must be worn during disinfection procedures or in the event of potential contact with irritant or contaminate items. The hands and body must be washed after the removal of gloves

Household bleach is NOT to be used directly - it must be carefully diluted. Pour one part of bleach carefully into nine parts of water taking care not to cause splashes. This solution (10% bleach) is then used to cleanse manikins in the same way we use alcoholic chlorhexidine at present.

Cleansing of Resuscitation Equipment

i. Wash in warm soapy water
ii. Rinse in water to remove soap residue
iii. Soak in 10% bleach for 2 minutes
iv. Wash carefully in running water to remove bleach residue
v. Dry Carefully

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. They should be rinsed in clean water and dried before disinfection procedures are carried out.
ii. Resuscitation face masks should be cleaned and disinfected in the same way as manikin face pieces.

iii. 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 disinfectionof interchangeable parts.

At the End of Training Classes

i. Each manikin must be carefully decomtaminated
ii. Dissassemble 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 solution of 10% bleach or 70% alcoholic chlorhexidine for at least two (2) minutes. Masks used in mouth-to-mask resuscitation must be disinfected in the same solution. These disinfecting agents should be used in accordance with the manufacture's instructions
vi. Last step is to dry all part, powder where necessary and replace for use by the next class

Disinfection of Surfaces

For general surface disinfection of blood or body substances after cleaning has been completed, the recommended solution is household bleach.

i. This is the chemical "sodium hypochlorite" and may be purchased as a solution, granules or tablets.
ii. Concentrations vary with different brands, so the recommendations of the manufacturer must be checked to ensurethat the concentration is equivalent to 10,000 parts per million (ppm) available chlorine
iii. It is important that the granular and tablet forms are completely dissolved to ensure the correct concentration of the hypochlorite
iv. The user must pay attention to the storage life of bleach preparations as deterioration occurs. Bleach solutions for disinfection must be freshly prepared
v. Bleach solutions will irritate the skin in the concentrations recommended above. They will corrode metal and may bleach fabric
vi. After disinfection, special attention must be paid to rinsing the surface free of hypochlorite and then drying
vii. In each case, the directions of the manufacturer must be followed

DISINFECTION OF LINEN

A supply of impermeable plastic bags should be available for the disposal of comtaminated 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 or instruments, floors, etc, 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

Surfaces of the body exposed to blood, saliva, urine or faeces should be washed thoroughly with soap and water at the earliest opportunity

For further information, contact the National Medical Officer, through SLSA national office on (02) 9300 4000 or your State Centre.