**Supplies Needed for Patient Care**

1. **Preplan for supplies needed for patient care**
2. **Limit Qty. to amount needed for care activity during a work shift or a full day**
3. **Avoid contamination of clean/sterile supplies by ensuring these are obtained with clean hands/clean gloves**
4. **If contamination of other supplies is suspected (i.e., contaminated glove/transfer visible soil to other supplies), discard**
5. **Use event-related sterility for items that do not have Mfg. expiration dates**

**Discharge Process**

**Was Patient in Room in Isolation Precautions?**

- **YES**
  1. Discard any supplies in packages that have been opened and remain in room
  2. **Unopen supplies in intact packages should be inspected:**
     - Discard if torn, damaged, visibly soiled or wet
     - If intact, return to clean storage room/nursing server
  3. Place any unused linen left in room in soiled linen hamper
  4. Follow facility specific terminal (discharge) room cleaning/disinfection procedure

- **NO**
  1. Discard any supplies in packages that have been opened and remain in room
  2. **Unopen supplies in intact packages should be inspected:**
     - Discard if torn, damaged, visibly soiled or wet
     - If intact, return to clean storage room/nursing server
  3. Place any unused linen left in room in soiled linen hamper
  4. Follow facility specific terminal (discharge) room cleaning/disinfection procedure

**Important Principles:**

1. Emphasize use of hand hygiene and/or clean gloves prior to obtaining clean/sterile patient care supplies
2. Encourage personnel to limit quantity of supplies taken into the patient’s room to the amount needed during a work shift or single day of care delivery.
3. Train personnel to plan ahead for patient care activity to avoid need to leave patient’s room in the middle of a procedure to obtain additional supplies.
4. Collaboration needed between care teams and EVS to keep surfaces in room free of unused supplies so EVS can thoroughly disinfect. Communicate process/procedure for responsibilities of direct care team and EVS technicians at discharge/transfer cleaning.
5. Apply event-related sterility to unused supplies. If packing intact, item can be returned to clean storage location.

**Examples of Patient Care Supplies:**

- IV therapy & vascular access: angiocatheters, needleless syringes, butterflies, blood culture bottles, dressing change kits.
- linen, underpads, disposable skin cleansing wipes

**Evidence-Based Support:**

Recent study by Morgan DJ, et al. of patients in ICUs with MDROs did not find a statistically significant association between detection of MDROs on HCW’s gloves/gown after contact with a supply cart in these rooms. (1) This study did find the following were risk factors for HCW contamination: positive culture for an MDRO in the environment around the patient, presence in the room for ≥ 5 minutes, performing a physical exam, and contact with the mechanical ventilator. Similar findings are reported by Guerrero et al. who studied contamination of HCW’s hands with C. diff spores. This microbe was picked up from the environment but it was primarily from the immediate zone of the patient (bedside rails, call light, overbed table, etc.). (2) Other prior studies are consistent with these two recent studies. (3,4) In one unpublished study of surfaces of supplies inside patient rooms stored in supply cabinets the investigators found bacterial contamination of the exterior packaging was absent from most of these or if detected was at very low levels. (5) Most recently Zelencirik and others collected cultures of supply carts in rooms of patients on Contact Precautions for C. difficile and a range of MDROs. Of 80 samples only 1 (1.3%) detected an isolate of MDR-A. baumannii. They concluded, “…supplies stored in enclosed carts in rooms housing patients on contact isolation are infrequently contaminated with MDROs…” (6).

**Rutala WA, personal communication, 03/31/2012.**

**ALGORITHM**

**UNUSED ROOM SUPPLIES**

- **YES**
  1. Discard any unused clean/sterile supplies that remain outside server
  2. Discard opened packages of patient care supplies (i.e. facial tissues)
  3. Place any unused linen left on surfaces in patient room in soiled linen hamper
  4. Follow facility specific terminal (discharge) room cleaning/disinfection procedure
  5. Make sure top and drawer fronts of server are disinfected

- **NO**
  1. Discard any unused clean/sterile supplies that remain outside server
  2. Discard opened packages of patient care supplies (i.e. facial tissues)
  3. Place any unused linen left on surfaces in patient room in soiled linen hamper
  4. Follow facility specific terminal (discharge) room cleaning/disinfection procedure

**Follow ministry-specific policy on restocking of unused supplies in rooms of patients on isolation for which exterior packaging is intact and beyond use date has not been exceeded.**