



IVC Evidensia

Hygiene Booklet

AN INTRODUCTION TO OUR
HYGIENE STANDARDS



HIGH QUALITY HYGIENE

Dear Colleagues,

As a world leading provider of veterinary care, it is our responsibility to be pioneers and actively work to prevent and control infections. This is not only important for our patients, but also for their owners, our staff and the health and safety of the wider public.

Clinical work requires excellent hygiene standards. In order to ensure a consistently high level across our group, we have recognised the need for an IVC Evidensia Hygiene Guide which will improve the hygiene and infection prevention work in every-day practice. Based on an initiative from the UK Clinical Board, we have developed this guide which will further establish IVC Evidensia at the forefront of exceptional veterinary care. It will guide you and provide additional prevention against disease transmission, reduced dependence on antibiotics and improved environmental sustainability through decreased chemical usage.

The Hygiene Guide will improve your current hygiene procedures where even the smallest things make a big difference.



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DVM PHD HYGIENE DIRECTOR

Hygiene Guidelines

For Infection Prevention & Control Within Veterinary Care

Infections caused by micro-organisms are an important cause of mortality in both animals and humans, and the United Nations predicts that infections with antimicrobial resistant bacteria could be responsible for ten million deaths around the world by 2050.

Over the last decade, light has been shed on the fact that the micro-organisms that infect animals and humans live in the same eco-system. Some of the micro-organisms have the capacity to cause zoonotic or anthroponotic diseases, i.e. they may transmit from animals to humans or vice versa. More importantly, the micro-organisms may also share different features such as virulence genes and genes for antimicrobial resistance. Therefore, we need to adopt a One Health perspective and work actively with infection prevention and control in human and veterinary care alike.

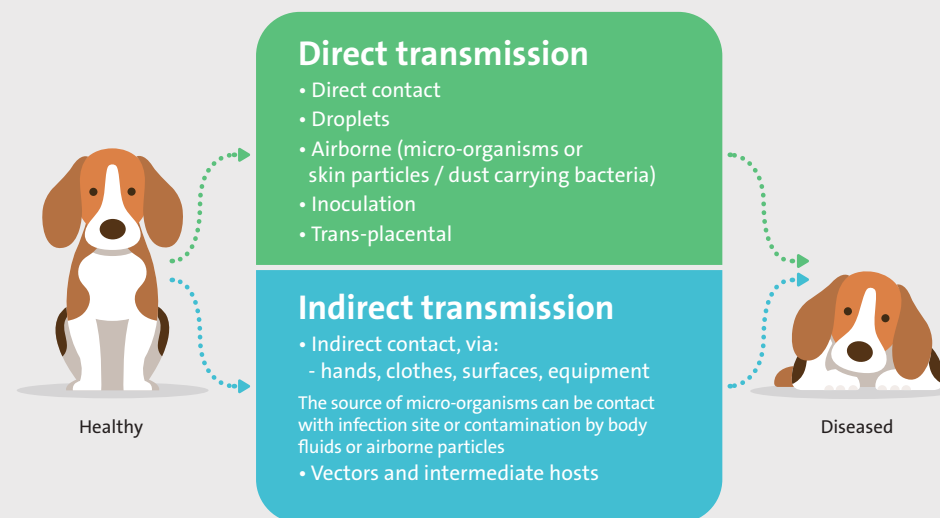
The basis of infection prevention and control within veterinary care is to actively work with hygiene guidelines for key activities that may be involved in the transmission of micro-organisms. With improved hygiene routines, the spread of pathogenic as well as antimicrobial resistant micro-organisms can be limited leading to improved patient safety and quality of care, and reduced need for antimicrobial treatments.



Every-day routines should be designed to minimise the risk of transmission of micro-organisms

Direct and indirect transmission of micro-organisms

In order to understand why we need to work with different hygiene routines, it is essential to understand how micro-organisms are transmitted directly or indirectly:



Prevention of transmission of micro-organisms

Direct contact can be avoided by not letting animals come into direct contact with each other. Similarly, direct transmission via droplets can be circumvented by keeping animals at a safe distance from each other.

Indirect contact, on the other hand, may be less overt and may therefore be a more significant threat to patient safety within veterinary care. Among the indirect contact routes, the hands are the most common route of transmission of micro-organisms. This means that touching an animal without immediate prior hand hygiene may pose a significant threat to patient safety.

1

Hand Hygiene



Summary



The basic rule is that **hand hygiene should always be done before and after having patient contact**, and before and after removal of personal protective equipment (PPE).



Hand disinfection is superior to hand washing in most situations for reducing the transient flora of micro-organisms.



For patient safety reasons it is essential that all staff with direct patient contact **stay bare below the elbow**. This implies wearing short-sleeves and avoiding wearing watches or other jewellery.



Providing hand sanitisers throughout the clinic makes it easy to achieve a good level of hand hygiene.

2

Clothes, Shoes & Personal Protective Equipment



Summary



Dedicated work clothes (short sleeves and long trousers) and shoes should be worn to reduce risk of spread of micro-organisms.



Gloves are recommended when there is risk for contact with body fluids, when cleaning or laundering and when barrier nursing. The gloves should be disposed of after any potential contamination (from animal or surface).



An apron or protective coat should be worn when there is a risk for contact with body fluids, when cleaning or when laundering. The protective equipment should be disposed after contact with any potential contamination (from animal or surface).



Surgical attire is essential to reduce the bioburden in the surgical theatre and improve patient safety. This includes clean scrubs and trousers, dedicated shoes or shoe covers, hair protection, disposable face masks, surgical gowns, and surgical gloves.

3

Environmental Hygiene



Summary



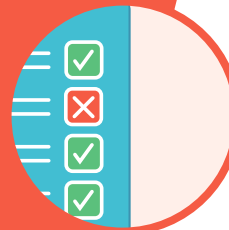
Environmental hygiene includes two separate processes – **cleaning and disinfection**. Cleaning is the removal of organic matter while disinfection is inactivation and killing of remaining micro-organisms.



An effective cleaning technique combined with appropriate cleaning supplies, including micro-fibre clothes, wipes, dusters and mops, will reduce the number of micro-organisms in your clinic.



Standardised cleaning protocols consisting of a cleaning activity list, standard operating procedures, and assigned responsibilities will keep your clinic clean and safe for pets and humans.



Monitoring the environmental hygiene by introducing cleaning logs, daily rounds, audits and measurements assures cleanliness and improved patient safety. Training your staff and will further improve cleaning compliance.

4 Infection Prevention – Biosecurity & Disinfection



Summary



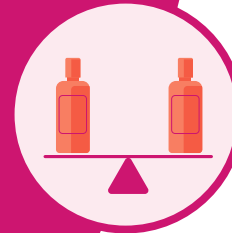
Disinfection implies the inactivation, killing and removal of remaining micro-organisms that are not removed by cleaning.



Disinfection must be preceded or combined with cleaning to be effective.



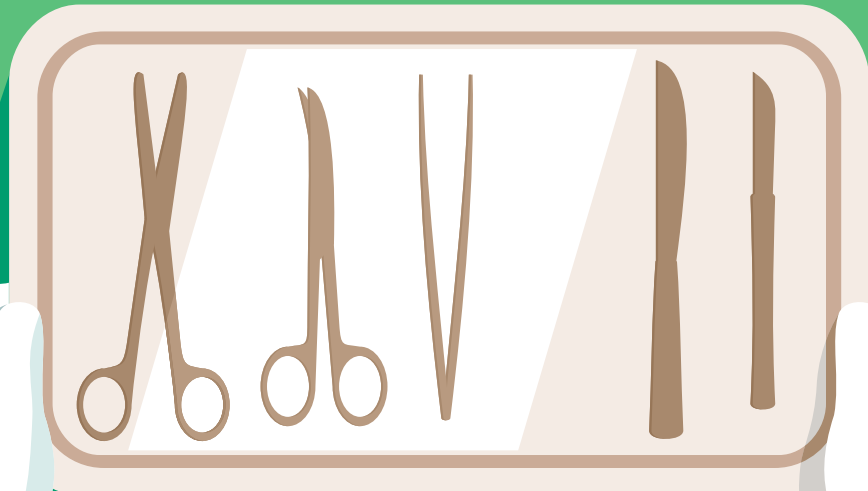
The frequency and type of disinfection needs to be adjusted to hygiene demands and anticipated biosecurity risks, taking into consideration both the facilities and the animals.



Each class of disinfectant has its own advantages and disadvantages. When choosing a disinfectant, factors such as microbiological spectrum and ease of application must be considered. Adverse effects such as human health risks, environmental concerns as well as corrosivity, and risk of discolouring should be taken into account.

5

Reprocessing – Cleaning, Disinfection & Sterilisation



Summary

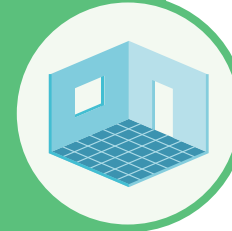
There are **different demands for cleanliness for different categories of instruments**: These include clean, highly clean and sterile. The three steps of reprocessing are cleaning, disinfection and sterilisation, corresponding to the levels of cleanliness respectively. All previous steps must be passed in order to reach a higher level of cleanliness.



Steam sterilisation is the most common method of sterilisation in veterinary clinics and hospitals. The autoclave must have a B-process to be able to adequately sterilise packaged instruments.



Having a **dedicated room for disinfection and sterilisation** is recommended to ensure optimum hygiene standards and patient safety.



Validation of the autoclave is essential for quality assurance since it is not possible to visually determine whether an instrument is sterile or not.



Interested in reading more?

Find more information about the
IVC Evidensia Hygiene Standards
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