Cleaning and Disinfection in Healthcare Settings

Cleaning: removal of visible soil from objects and surfaces

Disinfection: using cleaning techniques and disinfectants that destroy or prevent the growth of germs

Why Does It Matter?
Germs are more likely to cause problems in sick patients, because their immune defenses may not be the same as someone who is healthy and at home.

Examples of High Touch Surfaces that Require Cleaning and Disinfection
- Bed rails
- Keyboards
- Light switches

Contact Time for Disinfection
Amount of time a disinfectant needs to sit on a surface, without being wiped away or disturbed to effectively kill germs
Do's and Don'ts of Cleaning and Disinfection

Do's

- Always clean before disinfecting. Dirt and grime can make disinfectants not work as well.
- Follow the listed contact time. This ensures items are disinfected to keep germs from spreading.

Don'ts

- Don't rush the process. Wait until contact time is complete before using objects or surfaces or before a new patient comes into a room.
- Don't wipe the surface to dry it faster.
- Don't blow on the surface to dry it faster.