

Evaluation of Environmental Cleaning using Fluorescent Markers



Background: Individuals infected with healthcare-associated infections may contaminate near-patient/resident surfaces and equipment. Healthcare facilities are encouraged to develop programs to optimize thorough high-touch surface cleaning as part of room cleaning. This includes intensive cleaning at time of discharge, transfer, and at routine intervals for un-used or long-term occupied space.

Purpose: Fluorescent gel, powder, and lotion have all been developed to mark high-touch objects prior to room cleaning, which are utilized to evaluate cleaning protocols. This process should be done in conjunction with the CDC Options for Evaluating Environmental Cleaning¹ recommendations. Frequent environmental cleaning audits are recommended both to improve awareness of gaps in cleaning and disinfection and to improve cleaning effectiveness.

Supplies:

Fluorescent marker

UV light source

High-touch surface checklist¹



Image: Fluorescent marker on chair side table.

Directions:

1. Apply fluorescent marker to high-touch surfaces in the patient/resident care environment. Note application locations on the confidential checklist.
2. Have staff member(s) perform routine surface cleaning and disinfection without knowledge of application locations.
3. Return to the room to assess effective cleaning practices. Pass the UV light source over the surfaces where fluorescent marker was applied. If fluorescent marker remains, the location will “glow” at the UV light. This likely indicates opportunities to improve cleaning processes, including a missed surface or transfer from one area to another (e.g., not changing cloth/wipe frequently).

Please be sure to complete the training report form located at <https://forms.office.com/g/zpNs8g5Skp>.

For more information, contact the **New Jersey Department of Health, Infection Control Assessment and Response Team** at (609) 826-5964 or via email at CDS.ICAR@doh.nj.gov.

¹Refer to CDC Options for Evaluating Environmental Cleaning at <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/toolkits/evaluating-environmental-cleaning.html> for a sample high touch surface checklist and additional information.



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