

# Evaluation of Environmental Cleaning using Fluorescent Markers



**Background:** Individuals colonized or infected with pathogens 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 the routine cleaning process. This includes intensive cleaning at the time of discharge, transfer, and routine intervals for unused or long-term occupied space.

**Purpose:** Fluorescent gel, powder, and lotion have all been developed to mark high-touch objects (e.g., doorknobs, light switches) and reusable medical equipment (e.g., blood pressure machines, IV poles) before room cleaning. This process should be done in conjunction with the CDC Options for Evaluating Environmental Cleaning<sup>1</sup> recommendations. Routine auditing using objective methods with a documented checklist is recommended to identify cleaning and disinfection opportunities for improvement.

**Supplies:**  Fluorescent marker  UV light source  High-touch surface checklist<sup>2</sup>

## Directions:

1. Apply the fluorescent marker to high-touch surfaces and equipment in the environment. Note the application locations on the confidential checklist.
2. Allow adequate time for the responsible staff member(s) to perform routine surface cleaning and disinfection.
3. Assess effectiveness of the cleaning process. Pass the UV light source over the surfaces where the fluorescent marker was applied. If the fluorescent marker remains, the location will “glow” at the UV light. This indicates a missed surface or transfer from one area to another (e.g., not changing cloth/wipe frequently).
4. Demonstrate proper removal using the routine cleaning product and note any product or material issues that may present an infection prevention and control concern.

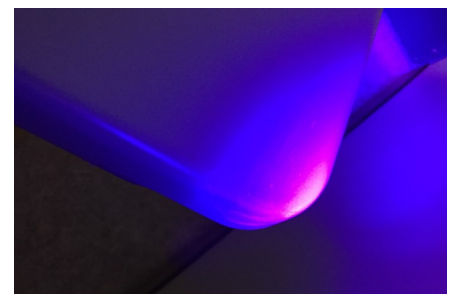


Image of fluorescent marker on chair side table.

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

<sup>1</sup>CDC Options for Evaluating Environmental Cleaning <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/toolkits/evaluating-environmental-cleaning.html>

<sup>2</sup>NJDOH ICAR Environmental Cleaning Checklist [https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/hai/environmental\\_checklist.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/hai/environmental_checklist.pdf)

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

