



Title	Clinical Wash Hand Basins
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Owner/Person Responsible	Samuel Whiting
Developed by	Infection Prevention and Control Team
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Document Control

Version	Amendment	Date	Amended By
V1.6	Addition of <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appendix 1: Process for Cleaning of Clinical Hand Wash Basins• Link to NSS - NHS Scotland National Cleaning Services Specification	07/06/2022	S Wilson
V1.7	Change to clinical document template front cover	14/07/2022	K Foord

Introduction

Hand hygiene is an important practice in reducing the transmission of infectious agents which cause healthcare associated infections (National Infection Prevention and Control Manual 2022). In order to decontaminate hands dedicated clinical wash hand basins (CWHB) must be available in all clinical areas.

Inappropriate use of CWHBs increases the risk of introducing potentially harmful micro-organisms into the taps, pipe work and drains. The CWHB itself may then become a potential source of infection.

Clinical Wash Hand Basins

The following points are essential to ensure that CWHBs are safe to enable staff to effectively perform hand hygiene:

- CWHBs are identified by signage and are for the purpose of hand washing only; CWHBs should not be used for any other reason



- CWHB and surrounding area must be clean, free of clutter and must be easily accessible
- Patient wash bowls should not be filled from CWHBs; water should be obtained from patient wash room or clean utility area. Water for cleaning should also be obtained from appropriate location, not CWHB.
- Do not store patient wash cloths or toiletries on CWHB or taps
- CWHBs should not have plugs and should not be plugged with any other material e.g. paper hand towels
- Do not dispose of any body fluids at the CWHB – use the dirty utility area. Water used for washing patients may be disposed of in the toilet provided appropriate personal protective equipment is used and any splash risk is minimised

- Do not wash any patient equipment in the CWHB. Dentures should be cleaned under running water in patient wash room sink, these are not CWHBs
- Do not use CWHB for storing any equipment awaiting decontamination e.g. cup holders, beakers
- Do not dispose of any used environmental cleaning fluids at CWHB e.g. soapy water or Tristel Fuse, these should be disposed of in the domestic services room or sluice
- Do not dispose of any drinking fluids in the CWHB; return to ward kitchen area and dispose of in kitchen sink
- Do not dispose of any IV fluids or drugs in the CWHB; these should be disposed of via the correct waste stream
- Do not use water from the CWHB for drinking; this should be obtained from the ward kitchen area
- Identify and report any problems with CWHBs promptly to the relevant department e.g. slow drainage or water flow to Estates Department or problems with cleanliness or lime scale build up to Facilities Department

Additionally, all staff should ensure they are familiar with the World Health Organisation 5 Moments for Hand Hygiene and the correct hand washing technique.

Appendix 1: Process for Cleaning of Clinical Hand Wash Basins

Sinks, Wash Hand Basins and Baths

	Detail	Safety and Hygiene	
Collect equipment/materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PPE (i.e., apron, gloves, safety goggles etc) as per local policy - colour coded equipment (microfibre, cloths) - disposable cloth or paper - chlorine releasing agent 	<p>Ensure all equipment is clean prior to use</p> <p>Adhere to NHSScotland National Cleaning Services Specification colour coding</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - wear appropriate PPE - clear plug and overflow of debris - damp clean soap and towel dispensers - clean splash back working from top to bottom - clean the underside of the sink/basin working from rim downwards 	<p>Decontaminate hands prior to wearing PPE</p>	
Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - using a new disposable cloth and 1,000ppm available chlorine, clean tap(s) first. Start at the tap outlet end (do not put cloth inside the tap outlet), finish at the base and then clean tap handles - using the same cloth clean the accessible part of the overflow or waste outlet to remove visible dirt, dispose of the cloth in the appropriate waste bag - using a new disposable cloth clean round the inside of the sink/basin from top rim of bowl 	<p>Always mix chemicals following Manufacturer's instructions</p> <p>All tap and shower outlets must have water run as per local water management policy</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - run water outlets as per local policy 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - rinse and dry the sanitary ware and taps and dispose of the cloth 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - remove PPE and dispose in the appropriate waste stream 	<p>Ensure to follow local procedure when disposing of waste</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - return equipment to DSR 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure to clean and store all used equipment away appropriately 	<p>Dispose of PPE appropriately and decontaminate hands</p>	

References

[\(2022\) National Infection Prevention and Control Manual \(Health Protection Scotland\) Chapter 1 Standard Infection Control Precautions](#)

[NHS Borders Zero Tolerance Hand Hygiene Policy](#)

[WHO My 5 moments for Hand Hygiene](#)

[NHS Borders Dress Code, Uniform & Laundering Policy](#)

[NSS - NHS Scotland National Cleaning Services Specification](#)