

Infection Control – cleaning, disinfecting and decontamination

Reducing the risk of cross infection is vital to all Practices, GPs and Practice staff.

Practices shall ensure that all staff are familiar with infection control procedures including environmental cleaning, standard and additional precautions and spills management.

RACGP Standards

5.3.4D *Our staff can describe:*

- *the routine used by our practice for cleaning, disinfecting and decontaminating the clinical and non-clinical areas of our practice*
- *standard precautions*
- *additional precautions*

Assessment methods

- Interviews with practitioners and support staff

Surveyors will ask practitioners and staff to describe the routine cleaning schedule including disinfecting and decontaminating all areas of the practice. Surveyors will also confirm that staff can describe the systems for applying standard and additional precautions.

- Document review of infection control systems policies and procedures

Meeting the standards

Practices will have in place routine cleaning schedules, ensuring a clean environment for patients and staff. Daily cleaning shall include all benchtops and trolleys, treatment couches/beds, protective attire, sinks, floors, toilets/bathrooms, food handling and eating areas. Weekly cleaning would include the waiting room (including toys) and office furniture.

Standard precautions include the assumption that all blood and body substances are potentially infectious. Personal protective equipment such as heavy duty gloves, gowns, plastic aprons, masks and eye protection should be worn when cleaning, performing procedures, dealing with spills or handling waste.

Additional precautions shall apply to patients known or suspected to be infected with highly transmissible pathogens.

The Practice shall have documented systems and procedures in regards to infection control methods, schedules and processes used.

Best practice:

- There is strict adherence to recommended protocols