CU255 Cleaning, Decontamination and Waste Management

Aims

To explain to the learner the correct way of maintaining a clean environment in accordance with national policies; to understand the procedures to follow to decontaminate an area from infection; and to explain good practice when dealing with waste materials. This unit does not cover the decontamination of surgical instruments.

Credit 2

Level 2

Learning outcomes The learner will:	**Assessment criteria** The learner can:
1. Understand how to maintain a clean environment to prevent the spread of infection	1.1. State the general principles for environmental cleaning 1.2. Explain the purpose of cleaning schedules 1.3. Describe how the correct management of the environment minimises the spread of infection 1.4. Explain the reason for the national policy for colour coding of cleaning equipment
2. Understand the principles and steps of the decontamination process	2.1. Describe the three steps of the decontamination process 2.2. Describe how and when cleaning agents are used 2.3. Describe how and when disinfecting agents are used 2.4. Explain the role of personal protective equipment (PPE) during the decontamination process 2.5. Explain the concept of risk in dealing with specific types of contamination 2.6. Explain how the level of risk determines the type of agent that may be used to decontaminate 2.7. Describe how equipment should be cleaned and stored

3. Understand the importance of good waste management practice in the prevention of the spread of infection	3.1. Identify the different categories of waste and the associated risks 3.2. Explain how to dispose of the different types of waste safely and without risk to others 3.3. Explain how waste should be stored prior to collection 3.4. Identify the legal responsibilities in relation to waste management. 3.5. State how to reduce the risk of sharps injury

Indicative content

Learning outcome 1: Understand how to maintain a clean environment to prevent the spread of infection

- General principles for environmental cleaning: definitions of cleaning, deep cleaning, disinfection, sterilization, decontamination; when each of these should be used; objectives of cleaning (reducing risk of infection, removing dirt, removing micro-organisms); responsibilities; patient/service user safety whilst cleaning takes place
- Cleaning schedules: what they are; what they contain (what to clean, when to clean, how to clean, who is responsible); importance of following schedules
- Minimising spread of infection: how cross infection occurs; how regular cleaning, cleaning schedules, risk assessment, good practice helps reduce infection
- Colour coding of cleaning equipment: why colour coding is used; importance of compliance; standardisation by national code; application to NHS but good practice to introduce elsewhere

Learning outcome 2: Understand the principles and steps of the decontamination process

- Steps in decontamination: cleaning, disinfection, sterilisation, autoclaving; details of how to carry out each step
- Use of cleaning agents: types of cleaning agents (detergents); when to use different agents; safety aspects (COSHH, safe use and storage)
- Use of disinfecting agents: types; what they do; when to use different types; safety aspects (COSHH, safe use and storage)
- Role of PPE in decontamination: type of PPE that may be required; reason for use (to protect individual carrying out the decontamination, to avoid re-contaminating sterile areas or instruments)
- Risk related to contamination: low risk areas (bathroom equipment, hoists, surfaces, furnishings, shared fixtures and equipment); medium risk (toilets, commodes, infectious individuals, spillages of body fluids, situations where there has been an outbreak); high risk areas (re-usable equipment that comes into contact with individuals)
- Choosing agents in relation to level of risk: evaluating level of risk (see above); agents for different levels (low risk – water and detergent, medium risk – disinfectants, high risk – sterilizing agents)
- Cleaning and storing equipment: importance of keeping equipment clean (to avoid contamination/bacterial growth); correct storage for safety (e.g. can be tripping or chemical hazards); COSHH; importance of correct storage of chemicals.

Learning outcome 3: Understand the importance of good waste management practice in the prevention of the spread of infection

- Categories of waste: infectious and non-infectious waste; disposable personal protective equipment; used needles, blades and other sharp instruments; definition of clinical waste
- Safe disposal of waste: sorting into colour coded disposal bags/containers; correct procedures for disposal especially sharps, arrangements for collection; how different waste is dealt with (e.g. incineration)
- Storage of waste: safe storage; where to store; how to store; how long before disposal
- Legal responsibilities: legal restrictions on disposal of hazardous substances (COSHH); record keeping; using approved contractors
- Reducing risks related to sharps: training and supervision , safe sharps practices relating to handling; immediate disposal; placing of sharps boxes; handling of sharps boxes

EDI Supporting learning and performance

EVIDENCE MATRIX

Candidate name:		**Registration number:**	
Qualification title:		**Unit title**	

Portfolio ref	**Evidence description**	**Ass meth**	**Learning Outcome** ☐										**Learning Outcome** ☐									
Assessment criteria (eg 1.1) →																						

The above evidence has been assessed against the standards for this element and has been judged for validity, authenticity, currency, reliability and sufficiency.

Learner signature:		Date:	
Assessor signature		Date:	
Internal Verifier sig: (if sampled)		Date:	

Assessment method key:

Obs =	Observation	Wt =	Witness testimony
P =	Product evidence	A =	APA/APL
Q =	Questioning	Ot =	Other
Sim =	Simulation/assignment		