

DEPARTMENT: Infection Control

POLICY: IC - 353

SUBJECT: Toy Cleaning

PURPOSE: Provide guidelines for cleaning toys provided by the hospital for children who are hospitalized or waiting for appointments.

RESPONSIBILITY:

- Staff in clinical areas where toys are located.
- Infection Control

POLICY:

1. Whenever possible, toys should be single user with the intent to be taken home with the child after discharge.
2. Toys should be safe and appropriate for the child's age.
3. Toys that stay in a department will be cleaned on a frequent basis.
4. Plush, cloth, or other non-washable toys should not be shared among children who may contaminate the toy with saliva or other body fluids. Children may play with their own plush/non-washable toys as long as these are not shared with other children.
5. Toys will be cleaned after being placed in a child's mouth, if visibly soiled, at least weekly, and after child's discharge.
6. Books will be wiped with cleaner – those unsuitable to be damp dusted must be removed or discarded.

PROCEDURE:

1. Toys will be cleaned by hand, will be washed with hospital approved detergent, rinsed thoroughly with tap water, and dried.
2. Toys which can be washed in the washing machine will be taken to the laundry for washing.
3. If a toy is contaminated with blood or feces, it will be disinfected after cleaning with a 1:10 bleach solution (one-part bleach to ten parts water), rinsed, and dried.

REVIEW AND REVISION STATEMENT:

This policy will be reviewed and revised as necessary and at least biannually initiated by the Infection Control Practitioner and reviewed by the Director of Nursing service and the Chief Executive Officer. (original document date 01/1997)