

Multidrug-Resistant Organisms (MDROs)

Cleaning and Disinfection in Health Care Facilities

Multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs) are bacteria or other organisms that are resistant to antibiotics and other drugs. MDROs can live on surfaces and objects for a long time, sometimes even months. This is why it is important to properly clean and disinfect surfaces and objects. Housekeeping staff play a key role in preventing the spread of MDROs.

When an MDRO is Identified

If an MDRO is identified in your health care facility, take the following steps:



Clean and disinfect the facility more frequently. Focus on cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces, this could include bedrails, tables, and doorknobs.



Review cleaning products and procedures. Make sure products are registered by the [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#) and are [effective against the MDRO\(s\)](#) identified. Review facility cleaning procedures with all housekeeping staff.



Observe and audit cleaning practices. Make sure housekeeping staff follow appropriate cleaning and disinfection procedures. Consider using a [fluorescent marking system](#) to help assess the effectiveness of cleaning practices.



Ensure housekeeping staff are aware that an MDRO has been identified. This can help them respond appropriately. You may also consider designating specific housekeeping staff to the affected patient or resident care area or unit.

Routine Cleaning Reminders

- Perform hand hygiene and wear personal protective equipment (PPE) based on a patient or resident's specific isolation status before entering their room to clean.
- Clean from least to most dirty, and from high to low areas within the room or care area.
- Clean rooms of patients or residents who are infected or colonized with an MDRO **after** cleaning other patient or resident rooms and care areas.
- Follow the product's [dwell or contact time](#) for proper disinfection. The surface must remain wet with the disinfectant for the described amount of time in order to properly disinfect.
- Change privacy curtains on a routine basis. They should also be changed if they become visibly dirty, and after a patient or resident is transferred or discharged.
- Clean tub and shower rooms after each use. Consider using plastic or vinyl privacy curtains in shared bathing areas.
- Launder lift slings frequently and between use with different patients or residents, regardless of their MDRO status.

Cleaning Your Health Care Facility: A Checklist

Proper environmental cleaning and disinfection is an important step in preventing the spread of MDROs. Use this checklist to help identify areas in your facility that need regular cleaning.

Health Care Areas

- Door knobs
- Light switches
- Window sills
- Sharps containers
- Soap and alcohol-based hand rub dispensers
- Paper towel dispensers
- Counter surface areas
- Sinks
- Computers and keyboards
- Computer carts
- Chairs and couches

Patient or Resident Room Areas

- Bed controls
- Bed railings and footboard
- Bedside table or nightstand
- Lift equipment
- Blood pressure cuff
- Call light
- Television remote control
- IV pole
- Monitoring equipment
- Telephone
- Tray table

Patient or Resident Bathroom Areas

- Sink perimeter
- Sink basin
- Sink drain
- Shower area (shower head, faucet handles, shower chairs, and shower surround)
- Toilet area (flush handles, seat or commode, both outside and inside of toilet bowl)
- Mirror
- Paper towel dispenser
- Soap dispenser
- Light switches
- Door knob
- Grab bar and call lights

Floors

- Clean floors last. Start in the back of the room using the “S” stroke.

For additional information and resources on MDROs, visit www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hai/reportable-mdro.htm or contact the Wisconsin Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Prevention Program at dhswhaipreventionprogram@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

