Storage of Clean and Soiled Supplies

Purpose:

To reduce the risk of disease transmission by providing guidelines for storage of supplies that incorporate principles of infection prevention.

Policy:

1. All medical supplies are classified as sterile, clean, or soiled; these categories of supplies are physically separated at all times.

2. The clean and soiled utility areas must be separated into two different rooms.

3. Sterile and clean items may be stored in the same room, but must be separated by a barrier, such as a shelf, drawer, or bin.

4. Any supplies which have been used on or by a patient are considered dirty/soiled.

5. Dirty/soiled supplies which are reusable are stored in the soiled utility room until taken to CMS for processing.

6. Linen that has been used shall not be stored in a clean utility room.

7. Areas that perform decontamination and/or processing must have approval from the Infection Control Department. If this activity is approved in an area, flow must be from dirty to clean.

8. Contaminated trash must not be placed in storage rooms with clean supplies.

9. Storage of Supplies
   A. Boxes of patient care supplies are not stored on the floor.
   B. Patient care supplies are not stored under or next to a sink or within 18” of a sprinkler.
   C. Shipping boxes (“ship to” label on box) or other boxes with indication of contamination during shipping are not taken into a clean supply room.
D. Contents of shipping boxes are removed from the shipping container before being shelved in clean supply rooms on patient care units.

E. To accommodate good housekeeping practices, storage shelves must allow sufficient space for a mop to go under the bottom storage shelf.

F. Barriers must protect items stored on the bottom shelf from mop splatter.

11. Patient care items are considered contaminated once taken to the patient’s room, and should not be returned to a clean storage room.

12. Equipment, such as blood gas machines, is considered contaminated and kept separate from clean supplies.

References:


Obstruction of Fire Sprinklers accessed online at www.compliance.gov.

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