

**Introduction:**

A terminal clean of a single room or bed space is required once a patient with a suspected or confirmed alert organism no longer requires transmission based precautions (TBPs) or the patient is discharged or transferred. The ward team should inform the domestic team if a terminal clean is required.

A terminal clean of a ward or department is usually required as part of incident or outbreak control measures and will be advised by the Infection Prevention and Control Team (IPCT).

Prior to a terminal clean commencing any surplus sundries/equipment should either be discarded as clinical waste or be cleaned and removed from the area. All linen including bedding, bed screens and window curtains must be removed.

A co-ordinated approach and agreed process needs to be in place between domestic staff and ward staff. The Senior Charge Nurse (SCN), nurse in charge (NIC) or departmental manager will liaise with the Domestic Supervisor to ensure that it is convenient for the terminal clean to start and to provide any special instruction.

**What is a Terminal Clean?**

A terminal clean is a co-ordinated in depth clean of the patient equipment and environment using chlorine based detergent and is carried out by both domestic and ward/departmental staff. The terminal clean includes changing of bed space and window curtains. This ensures a safe environment for the next patient.

**Single Room or Bed Space**

A single room or bed space terminal clean requires ward/departmental staff to clean all patient equipment in the single room or bed space with chlorine based detergent. The bed space checklist should be completed once the clean has taken place.

**Ward/Department**

A ward or department terminal clean requires ward/departmental staff to clean all patient equipment in the ward. The bed space checklists should be completed once the clean has taken place. The SCN, NIC or departmental manager is responsible for ensuring sufficient resource is available to allow the terminal clean to be carried out. If there are any resource concerns these should be discussed with the Lead Nurse or Line Manager for the service prior to the clean commencing.

**What are ward staffs' responsibilities during a terminal clean?**

A terminal clean is not solely the responsibility of domestic services. Ward/departmental staff need to participate and ensure that:

- All patient equipment is cleaned with chlorine based detergent and removed from the room/area.
- All used linen must be treated as infected, as per the Laundry Policy.
- All disposable items are discarded as clinical healthcare waste.

- Decontaminate hands as per NHSGGC Hand Hygiene Guidance, put on a disposable yellow plastic apron and disposable single use gloves (check with the nurse in charge if any other protective clothing is required).
- Prepare a fresh solution of a chlorine based detergent (1000ppm) as per manufacturer's guidance.
- Chlorine based detergent must have a minimum contact time as per manufacturer's guidelines for all surfaces and equipment.

Ward/departmental staff will clean and check:

- All patient related equipment
- All computing equipment
- All commodes
- Every bed and mattress, the part of the bed on which the mattress lies, bed ends and the bed rails
- Lockers and bed tables at all bed spaces
- Patient chairs
- Patient call buzzers
- All trolleys (including arrest trolley, procedure trolleys, storage trolleys, linen trolleys and case note trolley)
- Complete bed space checklist (including mattress check)

### **Following a Terminal Clean**

After a terminal clean the ward/department can:

- Make up all beds with clean linen
- Use the isolation room once all the surfaces are clean and dry.
- It should be noted that a terminal clean of a ward includes not only the patient rooms but all rooms (sluice/ treatment area/nurses station/ corridor areas etc.) and only when cleaning of all areas within the ward is completed is the area ready for reopening.
- DO NOT ADMIT PATIENTS TO A CLOSED WARD OR AN ISOLATION ROOM UNTIL THE FULL TERMINAL CLEAN IS COMPLETE.
- For further information please see NHS GGC Terminal Clean of a Ward and Isolation Room SOP [Terminal Clean of Ward and Isolation Room SOP V6 - NHSGGC](#)

### **Teachback Questions**

1. What is the difference between a single room/bed space terminal clean and a ward/departmental terminal clean?
2. What areas of the ward/department should be included in ward/department terminal clean?
3. What should ward/departmental staff clean and check as part of the terminal clean process?
4. What paperwork should be completed to evidence the terminal clean has been completed?
5. Describe the process following a terminal clean to allow the single room/ward to be ready for admission(s)?