

SFHSS18

Monitor and maintain the cleanliness of environments



Overview

This standard describes standards for monitoring and maintaining the cleanliness of environments through cleaning individual rooms and surfaces and assisting in the maintenance of furnishings and fittings. The term 'environments' is used to describe rooms in which people live, surrounding areas which affect the quality of their life, and surfaces and contents within the room. In this standard you undertake the cleaning activities yourself whilst paying due regard to the wishes of individuals. This would be because individuals are in a setting where such services are provided for them such as in a hospital.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 obtain agreement from those concerned, prior to any cleaning taking place
- P2 wear appropriate protective clothing
- P3 time the cleaning so that it causes as little disruption to those involved as possible and is consistent with any agreed specifications
- P4 ensure the living areas are visibly free of dust, dirt and debris and are not likely to endanger the health and safety of others
- P5 use appropriate cleaning equipment and cleaning materials in a manner which minimises risk to all individuals
- P6 dilute cleaning materials correctly at an appropriate temperature, and use them according to the manufacturer's instructions
- P7 provide hazard warnings when the cleaned surface is likely to cause risk to people
- P8 return cleaning equipment and cleaning materials to the appropriate storage area after use, in good working order and condition
- P9 dispose of waste in a safe manner and place
- P10 take appropriate action where problems arise during cleaning
- P11 obtain agreement from those concerned, prior to any maintenance taking place
- P12 ensure cleaning frequency and maintenance is consistent with agreed specifications
- P13 check that the cleaning equipment and cleaning materials used will not damage the furnishings and fittings
- P14 dilute cleaning materials correctly at an appropriate temperature, and use them according to the manufacturer's instructions
- P15 carry out maintenance at a time which causes least disruption
- P16 accurately report wear and tear to the appropriate person as soon as possible
- P17 report any furnishings or fittings liable to cause injury, with minimum delay, to the appropriate person

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 your role under legislation and organisational policies and practices on cleaning (e.g. not working above head height)
- K2 why cleaning agents should be correctly diluted and the possible effect of not doing this
- K3 why cleaning should minimise disruption to those in the setting
- K4 the appropriate cleaning materials for particular surfaces and equipment
- K5 the appropriate cleaning materials for particular furnishings and fittings
- K6 the meaning of the term 'clean living environment' and how this may differ for different individuals and in different settings
- K7 the potential risks when using and storing cleaning materials and equipment and the ways in which these risks can be minimised
- K8 the limitations which may be imposed on the individual's living space (e.g. resources, others in the setting, disablement)
- K9 the potential conflicts which may arise between an individual's wishes regarding cleanliness and the need to provide an environment as safe as possible for others
- K10 why a balance may need to be sought between standards of hygiene which are considered broadly acceptable socially and an individual's own preferences
- K11 the potential effects of not reporting hazards or taking the appropriate action to limit them
- K12 the potential risks when using and storing cleaning materials and equipment and the ways in which these risks can be minimised
- K13 the effects which the different forms of cleanliness and the needs of different individuals will have on the method and frequency of cleaning (i.e. from social cleaning to hygienic cleaning)
- K14 methods of limiting infection for different forms of cleanliness
- K15 how to optimise individual choice when there are limitations
- K16 the ways in which any conflict over the individual's wishes for the environment and the need to maintain their health and safety can be handled

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Additional Information

External Links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: EF2 Environments and Buildings

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Validity Current

Status Original

Originating organisation This NOS was originally developed by the Care Sector Consortium as Unit CU3

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Relevant occupations Health, Public Services and Care; Health and Social Care; Managers and Senior Officials; Associate Professionals and Technical Occupations; Health and Social Services Officers; Health Associate Professionals; Personal Service Occupations; Healthcare and Related Personal Services

Suite Support Services

Key words Portering, Cleaning, Housekeeping, Laundry, Health Records, Mail, Security
