From Top to Bottom: Cleaning Occupied and Discharged Patient Rooms

1. What are the 3 categories of cleaning solutions used to clean and disinfect patient rooms?
   a. Detergents, disinfectants and 1-step products
   b. Disinfectants, germicides and dusting products
   c. Soaps, dusting products and floor products
   d. Bleach products, detergents and floor products

2. The type of disinfectant solutions used by infection control and environmental services depends on the microorganisms present in the area, the potency and contact time needed to kill germs and the surface materials being cleaned.
   a. True
   b. False

3. Which of the following guidelines applies to cleaning an occupied patient room?
   a. Make the room clean and comfortable for the patient.
   b. Move the patient if you need to reach an area for cleaning.
   c. Expose the patient to cleaning chemicals for less than 3 hours a day.

4. When you clean a patient room before you disinfect, which of the following steps is the correct order?
   a. Put on gloves, throw out trash, perform hand hygiene
   b. Perform hand hygiene, put on gloves, throw out trash
   c. Throw out trash, perform hand hygiene, put on gloves
   d. Perform hand hygiene, throw out trash, put on gloves

5. Which of the following directions can be used when you clean a room?
   a. Top to bottom
   b. Bottom to top
   c. Front to back

6. Which of the following actions puts patients and environmental services technicians at risk?
   a. Damp dusting
   b. Spraying cleaners onto cloths or surfaces
   c. Wiping high-touch surfaces with a quaternary ammonium compound

7. A terminal or discharge cleaning means cleaning the area of the hospital where:
   a. A patient has transferred to another unit
   b. The patient has arrived at the hospital
   c. After the first procedure of the day has been performed in a surgical setting

8. Which of the following is a safety issue when cleaning and disinfecting?
   a. When removing sheets, hold the linen close to your body.
   b. Check the label on disinfectants for compatibility with materials and recommendations for length of contact time.
   c. Clean all medical devices, computer keyboards and machines with ready-to-use disinfectant wipes.
9. For isolation rooms, what are the next steps after you check the door sign for the type of isolation instructions?
   a. Perform hand hygiene, put on the required PPE, enter the room.
   b. Enter the room, perform hand hygiene, put on the required PPE.
   c. Perform hand hygiene, enter the room, put on the required PPE.

10. Which of the following is true about cleaning isolation rooms?
    a. Clean and disinfect cleaning tools and materials before using them to clean the next room.
    b. Use high-level germicidal solutions for the specific type of isolation.
    c. Give extra attention to high-touch surfaces that are close to the patient.
ANSWERS

1. A. Detergents, disinfectants and 1-step products.
   Detergents are used to clean debris, dirt and dust; disinfectants include germicides and fungicides; and 1-step products may be used to both clean and disinfect.

2. True

3. A. Make the room clean and comfortable for the patient.

4. B. Hand hygiene, put on gloves, throw out trash.
   Always perform hand hygiene before entering the patient room and before donning gloves, then start cleaning.

5. A. Top to bottom.
   You should clean in a way that prevents you from dirtying the sections you just cleaned. For example, from back to front, or in a clockwise or counterclockwise direction around the room. Also, be sure to clean from top to bottom – this prevents dirt and soil from dropping onto lower surfaces that have already been cleaned.

6. B.
   Answer B can put patients and Environmental Services technicians at risk, because dust harbors germs and it is best not to dry dust or mop. Rather, damp dust with a neutral or general purpose cleaner. Also, spraying any kind of chemical in a healthcare facility disperses the cleaner into the air system and can put patients or visitors at risk for respiratory issues. Always apply the cleaning solution to the cloth directly or in a stream and then use that cloth to wipe the surface. Wiping high touch surfaces with a quaternary ammonium compound, does not put people at risk because this is a commonly used disinfectant for patient care areas.

7. A. A patient has transferred to another unit.

8. B.
   Check the label on disinfectants for compatibility with materials and recommendations for length of contact time. While Environmental Services technicians should clean appliances such as the television and other equipment including their cords, it is important to know which medical devices, computer keyboards and machines are the responsibility of the Environmental Services team, and which cleaning agents are approved for these items. These cleaning agents may or may not include ready-to-use disinfectant wipes.

9. A. Always perform hand hygiene, then put on the required PPE before entering the patient room.

10. C.
    Give extra attention to high-touch surfaces that are close to the patient, such as bedrails and bedside tables, call buttons, remote controls, doorknobs and handles. A is incorrect as you should never use the same cleaning materials or solutions for more than 1 isolation room at a time. B is incorrect as specific low or intermediate level germicidal solutions will be used for that type of isolation (high level solutions are used for sterilization). For example, quaternary ammonium compounds are often recommended for multiple drug resistant organisms such as MRSA.