



ARROWHEAD REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER INFECTION CONTROL MANUAL

POLICY NO 328 Issue 1
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SECTION: **III. CONTROL OF INFECTIONS**

SUBJECT: **Portable Fans- Cleaning and Use Restrictions**

APPROVED BY: _____
Epidemiology Healthcare program Administrator

POLICY

Portable fans may be used in some patient care areas to assist in patient comfort. Fans have the potential to disperse dust and airborne-transmitted microorganisms, and or alter air patterns. There is no specific regulatory standard that prohibit the use of fans, and the use of a portable fans has not been proven to transmit infection. Maintaining the cleanliness of the fan blades and housing is an infection control concern. The use of fans does not include High-Efficiency Portable Air (HEPA) filtered fans.

Recommendations

- I. Fans are considered non-critical reusable equipment.
- II. Prior to the use of a portable fan attempt to adjust heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system in order to achieve comfort for the patient.
- III. Facility owned fans require cleaning and disinfection per manufactures guidelines. Fans owned by patients or families must be inspected by Biomedical Engineering prior to use.
- IV. Fans are not recommended in Airborne Infection Isolation (All) Rooms or any pressurized room due to pressure differentials between the room and external spaces that may disrupt the designed air flow pattern.
Do not use fans for patients in Droplet or Contact Precautions, due to the risk of microorganism dispersal. If avoiding a fan is not possible in these circumstances, keep the door of the room closed.
- V. Do not use fans in high risk areas where immunocompromised patients received care. Immunocompromised refers to patients with congenital or acquired immunodeficiency or immunodeficiency due to therapeutic agents or other. Fungal spores in dust have been shown to cause serious infections in immunocompromised patients.
- VI. Do not use fans in areas where sterile supplies are stored.
- VII. If a fan is approved for use:
 - A. Ensure airflow is into the patient's bed space and not across patient to a roommate or hallway.
 - B. Fans must be positioned such that airflow is level with the surface of the bed (i.e., place table fans on a surface at bed level).
 - C. Cleaning and Disinfection: ensure fans are cleaned according to the manufacturer's instructions.

SUBJECT: Portable Fans

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REFERENCES: Bartley, J. and Olsted, R. Construction and Renovation: a Toolkit for Professionals in Infection Prevention and Control; 3rd Ed. Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) (200&)
 Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC), APIC Text of Infection Control and Epidemiology,(2014), Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning
 The Joint Commission, Environment of Care (EC) Ambulatory Health Care, Standards FAQ Details.

DEFINITIONS: N/A

ATTACHMENTS: N/A

APPROVAL DATE:

<u>12/11/2019</u>	<u>Infection Control Committee</u> Applicable Administrator, Hospital or Medical Committee
<u>01/09/2020</u>	<u>Quality Management Committee</u> Applicable Administrator, Hospital or Medical Committee
<u>01/30/2020</u>	<u>Medical Executive Committee</u> Applicable Administrator, Hospital or Medical Committee
<u></u>	<u>Applicable Administrator, Hospital or Medical Committee</u>
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SECTION: III. CONTROL OF INFECTIONS

SUBJECT: Ultrasound Gels for Ultrasound- Safe Use

APPROVED BY: _____

Epidemiology Healthcare Program Administrator

BACKGROUND

Infection control is an integral part of the safe and effective use of ultrasound in medicine. The purpose of this document is to provide guidance regarding ultrasound gel use to minimize risk of iatrogenic or nosocomial infections. Ultrasound gels can become contaminated during use. The outlined procedures minimize the risk of infection when using ultrasound gels.

PROCEDURE

- I. **Sterile Ultrasound Gel:** Use sterile single use ultrasound gel packets as recommended in clinical practice standards for all sterile body site procedures and any invasive procedures using ultrasound-guided biopsy or ultrasound-guided device insertion. Use sterile ultrasound gel for procedures with mucosal contact where biopsy is not planned but any possible added bioburden would be undesirable or mucosal trauma is likely (e.g., transesophageal echocardiography (TEE) procedures, transvaginal ultrasound procedures without biopsy and transrectal ultrasound procedures without biopsy). Use sterile ultrasound gel for all procedures on Pediatric patients including neonatal patients.
- II. **Non-Sterile Ultrasound Gel:** Use open containers of ultrasound gel only for low risk procedures on intact skin and for low risk patients. For non-sterile ultrasound gel, single use containers are recommended. Bottles of ultrasound gel must have an expiration date written on them when they are first opened. The expiration date will be twenty-eight (28) days from the open date. Appropriately seal (close) the container when not in use. Dispensing nozzles must not come into direct contact with patients, staff, instrumentation or the environment. For patients on isolation precautions or areas that do not use the bottles of ultrasound gel, use of a single dose packet of ultrasound gel to prevent contamination of a bottle of gel should be used.
- III. **Warming Ultrasound Gels:** Dry heat should be the only method used to warm gel. Gel warmers should be cleaned according to the manufacturer's instructions for use with a hospital approved disinfectant. If the warmer becomes soiled, it should be cleaned as soon as feasible.
- IV. **Storage of Ultrasound Gel:** Prefilled bottles of ultrasound gel should be stored in an area that is dry and protected from potential sources of contamination such as dust, moisture, or other. If there is evidence of potential contamination or the package integrity has been breached, the ultrasound gel must be discarded immediately.

SUBJECT: Ultrasound Gels for Ultrasound- Safe Use

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IC Policy No. 329**REFERENCES:**

Sustained Endemicity of Burkholderia Cepacia Complex in a Pediatric Institution, Associated with Contaminated Ultrasound Gel, Infection Control Hospital Epidemiology 2006, April 27; 362-366, Jacobson M, Wray R, Kovach D, Speert D, Matlow A

Infection Prevention and Control in Ultrasound- best practice recommendations from the European Society of Radiology Ultrasound Working Group. Insights Imaging, 2017, Dec; 8(6) 523-535, Nyhsen CM, Humphreys H, Koerner RJ, Grenier N, Brady A, Sidu P, et al

Researchers Propose Guidelines for Ultrasound Gel and Infections to Reduce Risk, Infection Control Today, Nov. 13, 2012

The Association for Medical Ultrasound, American Institute of Ultrasound Medicine, AIUM, Guidelines for Cleaning and Preparing External- and Internal –Use Ultrasound Transducers Between Patients, Safe Handling and Use of Ultrasound Coupling Gel, Nov. 2018

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC Guidance for US Probes. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Website, 2008, <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/disinfection/index.html>

DEFINITIONS: N/A**ATTACHMENTS:** N/A**APPROVAL DATE:**12/11/2019Infection Control Committee

Applicable Administrator, Hospital or Medical Committee

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