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## ***Clostridium difficile*: Recommended Cleaning & Disinfecting Procedures**

In December 2004, The Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PICAC) published a comprehensive document to address the prevention and control of the transmission of *Clostridium difficile* in acute and non-acute health care settings. This document was revised November 2007, and reflects the best expert opinion currently available on the prevention and control of *Clostridium difficile* associated diarrhea (CDAD). The text clearly addresses the necessary steps for proper environmental cleaning (see section 5, pages 12-13) and indicates that,

“In patient-care areas where there are multiple cases or ongoing transmission of *C. difficile*, use of hypochlorite-based products for disinfection after the room is cleaned with hospital-grade disinfectant may be considered, in consultation with Infection Prevention and Control and Occupational Health and Safety (CDC 2004). Alternatively, the organization may consider the use of new disinfectant products with invitro evidence of sporicidal activity. Compatibility of products and occupational exposures must be considered.”

Additionally, outbreak management is thoroughly discussed (pages 16-17). This document also outlines a “Cleaning Protocol for Patient/Resident Rooms Contaminated with *Clostridium difficile*” (Appendix B) and has a “Sample Checklist for Discharge/Transfer Cleaning” (Appendix C).

In 2003, the Centers for Disease Control reported, “The recommended approach to environmental infection control with respect to *C. difficile* is meticulous cleaning followed by disinfection using hypochlorite-based germicides as appropriate.”<sup>2</sup>

In 2005, The Ohio Department of Health concluded that “In light of the controversy over the appropriate disinfectant to use, it would seem prudent, at least, to use a 1:10 dilution of 5.25% sodium hypochlorite (household bleach) and water for the area’s most heavily contaminated (high touch items: bedrails, call bell, telephone, over the bed table, bathroom doorknob, water faucets, etc.).”<sup>3</sup>

### **References:**

1. “Best Practices Document for the Management of *Clostridium difficile* in all health care settings” ©Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care/Public Health Division/Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee, Toronto, Canada, Nov. 2007, ISBN 1-4249-1545-7 (PDF)  
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2. *Clostridium difficile*. Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities. Centers for Disease Control and prevention, Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. 2003:84-85  
[http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/pdf/guidelines/Enviro\\_guide\\_03.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/pdf/guidelines/Enviro_guide_03.pdf)
3. “Infection Control Recommendations for *Clostridium difficile*-Associated Disease in Health Care Facilities”, Ohio Department of Health, December 2005. (Environmental Cleaning section, p 6).  
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