

Decontamination of Equipment: Community Midwives

1. Introduction and who the guideline applies to:

This guideline is for all Community Midwives who need to clean equipment used outside of the hospital setting.

Please read in conjunction with the [Cleaning and Decontamination for Infection Prevention UHL Policy](#)

2. Guidance:

Please find the following recommendations from Infection Prevention regarding the decontamination of equipment that is used by community midwives within patients own home.

Please note that if there is a risk of contact with body fluids or blood or undertaking decontamination of equipment, gloves and apron must be worn. Also consider eye and mask protection.

Routine cleaning of equipment:

- Wipe all surfaces of the equipment with Clinell® wipes
- Wipe Transcutaneous Bilirubin machines with steri wipes to avoid excess residue
- CO monitors should be wiped using Clinell® wipes

Decontamination of equipment that has contact with a patient or the environment with a known infection:

- Wipe all surfaces with Clinell® wipes

Decontamination of equipment contaminated with body fluids other than blood:

- Wipe all surfaces with Clinell® wipes

Decontamination of equipment contaminated with blood:

- Put all liquor/blood contaminated incos, gloves, wipes and general birth waste (not placental tissue) in a black plastic bag and seal
- Leave at homebirth setting for routine household waste disposal
- Disinfect equipment with 2% Milton (contact time of 2 minutes)
- Leave to dry

Decontamination of birth pool:

Please refer to [Cleaning and Decontamination for Infection Prevention UHL Policy](#)

3. Education and Training:

None

4. Monitoring Compliance

None

5. Supporting References

[Water Birth UHL Obstetric Guideline](#)

[Cleaning - Healthcare Environment UHL Policy](#)

6. Keywords:

Decontamination, Clinell, Community Equipment

The Trust recognises the diversity of the local community it serves. Our aim therefore is to provide a safe environment free from discrimination and treat all individuals fairly with dignity and appropriately according to their needs. As part of its development, this policy and its impact on equality have been reviewed and no detriment was identified.

EDI Statement

We are fully committed to being an inclusive employer and oppose all forms of unlawful or unfair discrimination, bullying, harassment and victimisation.

It is our legal and moral duty to provide equity in employment and service delivery to all and to prevent and act upon any forms of discrimination to all people of protected characteristic: Age, Disability (physical, mental and long-term health conditions), Sex, Gender reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Sexual orientation, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race (including nationality, ethnicity and colour), Religion or Belief, and beyond.

We are also committed to the principles in respect of social deprivation and health inequalities.

Our aim is to create an environment where all staff are able to contribute, develop and progress based on their ability, competence and performance. We recognise that some staff may require specific initiatives and/or assistance to progress and develop within the organisation.

We are also committed to delivering services that ensure our patients are cared for, comfortable and as far as possible meet their individual needs.

DEVELOPMENT AND APPROVAL RECORD FOR THIS DOCUMENT			
Original Author	Andrea Dziemianko - Community Midwifery Team Lead	Executive lead: Chief Nurse	
Lead Officer/ Reviewed by:	A Barker – Home Birth Team Lead		
Approved by:	Maternity Service Governance Group	Date Approved: 19/01/2022	
REVIEW RECORD			
Date	Issue Number	Reviewed By	Description Of Changes (If Any)
14.11.12	2	Andrea Dziemianko	Name of Trigene wipes changed to Distel. No other changes
February 2016	3	As above	PDI Sani-cloth Detergent wipes no longer used. Distel used for everything
March 2016	4	As above	Distel not to be used for blood decontamination so removed from guideline
September 2018	5	As above	Use of Clinell instead of Distel and Sodium Hypochlorite replaced by Milton
January 2022	6	A Barker	Added link to birth pool decontamination guidance
December 2024	7	A Foxwell J Fulbrook	Added - Wipe Transcutaneous Bilirubin machines with steri wipes to avoid excess residue. CO monitors should be wiped using Clinell® wipes. Re- contaminated waste, updated to - Leave at homebirth setting for routine household waste disposal