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	Document Title:	<b>AMBULANCE CLEANING AND DISINFECTION</b>

### **PURPOSE:**

To ensure proper cleaning and disinfection of hospital ambulance for the safety of patients and health care personnel.

### **SCOPE:**


Applies to all ER/OPD staff of Dr. Pablo O. Torre Memorial Hospital

### **PERSON RESPONSIBLE:**

Nurses, Doctors, Auxiliaries, Ambulance Driver, Housekeeping Personnel

### **GENERAL GUIDELINES:**


1. Contaminated reusable patient care devices and equipment shall be placed in bio-medical waste bags (yellow bag) for appropriate cleaning and disinfection.
2. Disposable equipment and contaminated linens should be appropriately bagged and dispose at the receiving hospital, per the hospital policies.
3. Frequently touched surfaces in patient-care compartments (including stretcher, railings, medical equipment control panels, adjacent flooring, walls, ceilings and work surfaces, door handles, keyboards and cell phones) that become directly contaminated with respiratory secretions and other body fluids during patient care, or indirectly by touching the surface with gloved hands should be cleaned and then disinfected constantly according to the hospital protocol.
4. Non-patient-care areas of the vehicle, such as driver's compartment, may become indirectly contaminated. Personnel should be particularly vigilant to avoid contaminating environmental surfaces not directly related to patient care (e.g steering wheel, light switches, gear shifts, etc.).
5. The ambulance shall be cleaned and disinfected thoroughly prior and after each call/ usage.

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6. The driver and/or the dedicated housekeeping personnel shall be responsible for disinfecting and cleaning of the ambulance prior and after its operation.
7. All contaminated waste, including the drapes, wipes and PPE shall be considered infectious substance and packaged appropriately for disposal.
8. The following disinfectants or cleaners should be utilized for the disinfection of the ambulance:
  - 8.1. Quaternary Cleaners (with ammonium chloride as the active ingredient)
  - 8.2. Phenolic Cleaners (with the active ingredient o-phenylphenol)
  - 8.3. Chlorinated bleach solutions (5.25% – less than 1 part bleach to 100 parts water)
  - 8.4. 70% alcohol
  - 8.5. Detergent
  - 8.6. Hydrogen peroxide

#### **PROCEDURE:**

1. Develop a plan for disinfection/decontamination of the vehicle based on the patient symptoms, risk of exposure to blood or body fluid, and types of waste.
2. The vehicle must be placed in dedicated hospital ambulance parking area prior to disinfection. This is to ensure a well-ventilated, open space, and reduce exposure to the public while the decontamination/ cleaning is being carried out.
3. Remove all contaminated materials. Ambulance personnel who are responsible for cleaning and disinfection should wear the level 2 PPE as mentioned at all times.
4. Remove the used PPE and don properly a new set of clean PPE before cleaning in order to avoid cross contamination.
5. Begin cleaning the ambulance by starting at the driver's compartment, followed by the entrance moving towards the affected or contaminated areas.
6. Use only approved cleaning compounds. Observe the required "contact time" or period for which the surface must stay wet after cleaning for complete disinfection.
  - 6.1. Cleaning teams should clean all surfaces within the vehicle, using disposable cleaning cloths.


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- 6.2. Remove all visible signs of soiling on all surfaces. Allow surfaces to stay wet for specified dwell times and reapply cleaner if necessary.
  - 6.3. Areas with visible contamination of patient's blood and other body fluids shall be decontaminated with a hospital approved disinfectant first, before soaking up the fluid with absorbent materials
  - 6.4. Cleaning of stretcher:
    - a) To clean a stretcher, hands wash all surfaces with mild detergent or use recommended disinfectant.
    - b) Regardless of what cleaning product to be used, avoid over-saturation.
    - c) Dry the stretcher thoroughly
  - 6.5. Change cloths frequently, dispose the used cloth in the infectious waste bag (yellow plastic bag)
  - 6.6. Wipes and disinfect the ambulance exterior including the loading doors, handles, and any other external areas that may be contaminated.
  - 6.7. All pre-positioned medical equipment covered with protective bags shall be disinfected. Replace the bag if totally soiled.
7. Doff the worn PPE correctly and throw in the yellow bag. For reusable gowns, follow the protocols for disposing soiled linens.
  8. Dispose all waste according to the hospital protocol on disposing infectious wastes.
  9. Perform hand hygiene.
  10. Accomplish the Checklist for Disinfection of Ambulance.

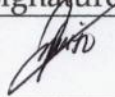

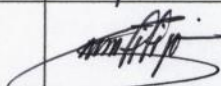
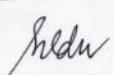


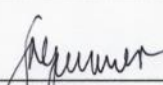
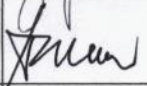
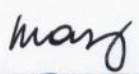

#### **REFERENCE:**

DOH Health Care Waste Manual

Ambulance cleaning: A complete checklist [2021]. (2021, September 22). ServiceMaster of Lake Shore- Chicago IL. <https://servicemasteroflakeshore.com/ambulance-cleaning-checklist>

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**APPROVAL:**

	Name/Title	Signature	Date
Prepared by:	<b>EDWIN MEÑOSO, RN</b> ER Head Nurse		4/11/22
Verified by:	<b>KONRAD JAN J. ESCOBIA</b> OIC- ER/OPD Department		4/11/22
	<b>RICHARD S. MONTILIJAO, RN</b> OIC Policy Development		4/13/22
	<b>SHALAINE SOCORO L. DURAN, RN</b> Nurse Manager for Operations		4/13/2022
	<b>HANNAH KHAY S. TREYES, RN, MN</b> Chief Nurse		4/13/2022
Reviewed:	<b>DENNIS C. ESCALONA, MN, FPCHA, FPSQua</b> Quality Assurance Supervisor		4/13/2022
Recommending Approval:	<b>MARIA LIZA C. PERAREN, RN, MAN</b> Nursing Director		4/13/2022
	<b>HENRY F. ALAVAREN, MD, FPSMID, FPSQua</b> Total Quality Division Officer		4/19/2022
	<b>MA. ANTONIA S. GENSOLI, MD, FPPS, FPCHA</b> Vice President – Chief Medical Officer		4-18-22
Approved:	<b>GENESIS GOLDI D. GOLINGAN</b> President and CEO		4/22/22

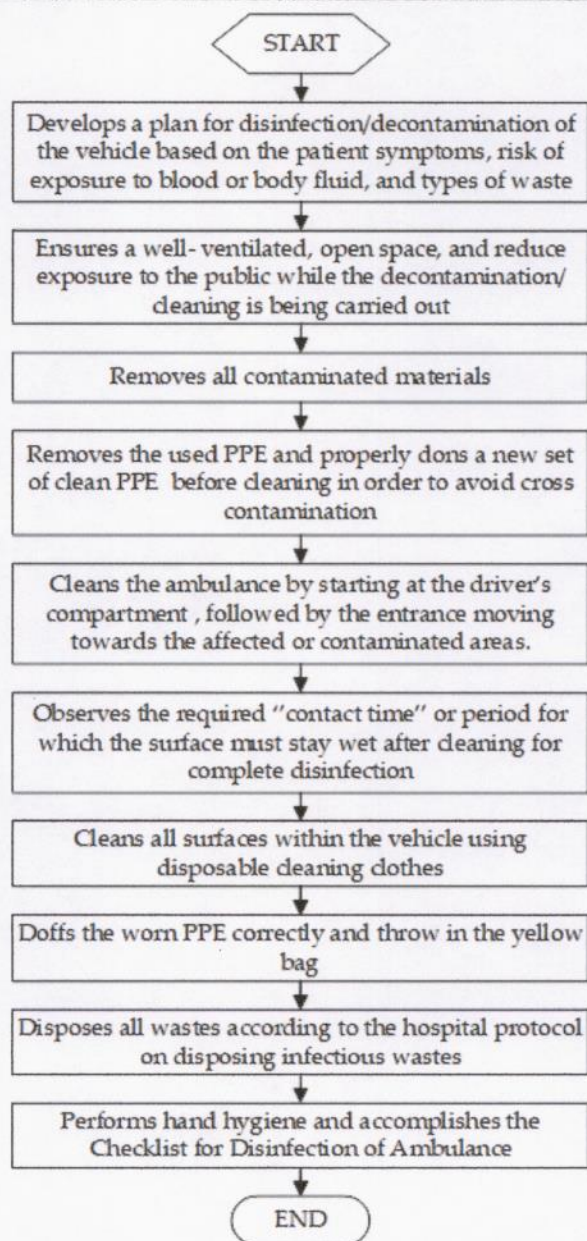



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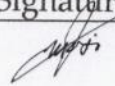


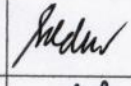


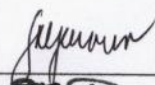
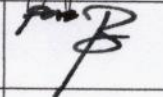
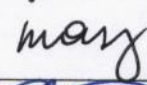

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## FLOWCHART



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**APPROVAL:**

	Name/Title	Signature	Date
Prepared by:	<b>EDWIN MEÑOSO, RN</b> ER Head Nurse		6/16/22
Verified by:	<b>KONRAD JAN J. ESCOBIA, RN</b> OIC- ER/OPD Department		6/16/22
	<b>RICHARD S. MONTILJAO, RN</b> OIC Policy Development		6/20/22
	<b>SHALAINE SOCORO L. DURAN, RN</b> Nurse Manager for Operations		6/20/22
	<b>HANNAH KHAY S. TREYES, RN, MN</b> Chief Nurse		6/23/22
Reviewed:	<b>DENNIS C. ESCALONA, MN, FPCHA, FPSQua</b> Quality Assurance Supervisor		06/28/2022
Recommending Approval:	<b>MARIA LIZA C. PERAREN, RN, MAN</b> Nursing Service Division Officer		06/30/2022
	<b>HENRY F. ALAVAREN, MD, FPSMID, FPSQua</b> Total Quality Division Officer		7/5/22
	<b>MA. ANTONIA S. GENSOLI, MD, FPPS, FPCHA</b> Vice President – Chief Medical Officer		7-18-22
Approved:	<b>GENESIS GOLDI D. GOLINGAN</b> President and CEO		9/22/22




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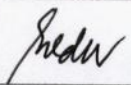


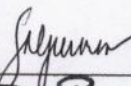
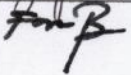
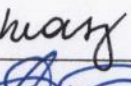
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KEY TASKS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
1. Develops a plan for disinfection/decontamination of the vehicle based on the patient symptoms, risk of exposure to blood or body fluid, and types of waste.	Driver and/or the dedicated Housekeeping Personnel
2. Ensures a well-ventilated, open space, and reduce exposure to the public while the decontamination/cleaning is being carried out.	Driver and/or the dedicated Housekeeping Personnel
3. Removes all contaminated materials.	Driver and/or the dedicated Housekeeping Personnel
4. Removes the used PPE and don properly a new set of clean PPE before cleaning in order to avoid cross contamination.	Driver and/or the dedicated Housekeeping Personnel
5. Cleans the ambulance by starting at the driver's compartment, followed by the entrance moving towards the affected or contaminated areas.	Driver and/or the dedicated Housekeeping Personnel
6. Observes the required "contact time" or period for which the surface must stay wet after cleaning for complete disinfection.	Driver and/or the dedicated Housekeeping Personnel
7. Cleans all surfaces within the vehicle, using disposable cleaning cloths.	Driver and/or the dedicated Housekeeping Personnel
8. Doffs the worn PPE correctly and throw in the yellow bag.	Driver and/or the dedicated Housekeeping Personnel
9. Disposes all waste according to the hospital protocol on disposing infectious wastes.	Driver and/or the dedicated Housekeeping Personnel
10. Performs hand hygiene and accomplishes the Checklist for Disinfection of Ambulance.	

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**APPROVAL:**

	Name/Title	Signature	Date
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Verified by:	<b>KONRAD JAN J. ESCOBIA, RN</b> OIC- ER/OPD Department		6/16/22
	<b>RICHARD S. MONTILIJAO, RN</b> OIC Policy Development		6/16/2022
	<b>SHALAINE SOCORO L. DURAN, RN</b> Nurse Manager for Operations		6/20/2022
	<b>HANNAH KHAY S. TREYES, RN, MN</b> Chief Nurse		06/23/2022
Reviewed:	<b>DENNIS C. ESCALONA, MN, FPCHA, FPSQua</b> Quality Assurance Supervisor		06/28/2022
Recommending Approval:	<b>MARIA LIZA C. PERAREN, RN, MAN</b> Nursing Service Division Officer		6/30/2022
	<b>HENRY F. ALAVAREN, MD, FPSMID, FPSQua</b> Total Quality Division Officer		7/8/22
	<b>MA. ANTONIA S. GENSOLI, MD, FPPS, FPCHA</b> Vice President – Chief Medical Officer		7-18-22
Approved:	<b>GENESIS GOLDI D. GOLINGAN</b> President and CEO		7/22/22