TITLE: Interventions for Sanitizing Bedpans in Health Care Facilities: Guidelines

DATE: 04 December 2008

RESEARCH QUESTION:
Which interventions are recommended in guidelines to clean and sanitize bedpans in health care facilities?

METHODS:
A limited literature search was conducted on key health technology assessment resources, including PubMed, OVID’s Embase, and CINAHL, the Cochrane Library (Issue 4, 2008), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, ECRI, EuroScan, international HTA agencies, and a focused Internet search. Results include articles published between 2000 and November 2008, and are limited to English language publications only. Filters were applied to limit the retrieval to guidelines. Internet links are provided, where available.

The summary of findings was prepared from the abstracts of the relevant information. Please note that data contained in abstracts may not always be an accurate reflection of the data contained within the full article.

RESULTS:
Two evidence-based guidelines from the United Kingdom were identified pertaining to the cleaning and sanitization of bedpans in health care facilities. Additional information that may be of interest has been included in the appendix.
OVERALL SUMMARY OF FINDINGS:

Guidelines for the decontamination of equipment developed by the NHS Foundation Trust for the county of Durham and Darlington state that reusable metal bed pans must be disinfected using a heat disinfection machine.¹ No further recommendations for type of machine or the process of heat disinfection are provided. South Tees hospital infection policy developed by the NHS Foundation Trust state that reusable bedpans have an intermediate risk for infection and recommend disinfection by pasteurization in a bedpan washer.² Specific recommendations for bedpan washers are not provided.

Few guidelines exist pertaining to the cleaning and disinfection of bedpans in health care facilities. The two that were identified recommend heat disinfection but detailed recommendations are not provided.
REFERENCES SUMMARIZED:

Guidelines and recommendations


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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Observational studies