

Infection Control when using Video Consulting Equipment

All medical devices and equipment may become contaminated with microorganisms and thus can present a risk to people, as well as to those subsequently handling or using equipment. Safe and effective decontamination of all re-useable equipment between uses is an essential part of routine infection prevention and control practice.

Inadequate decontamination has been responsible for outbreaks of infection in establishments. Staff have a duty to ensure that all equipment they use in whatever setting is clean when used and effectively decontaminated between each use, according to manufacturer's instructions.

Cleaning the Device

The video conferencing unit will be used for repeated episodes on or by different people, therefore requires appropriate decontamination between each use.

- Disconnect the device from the power supply before cleaning.
- Wipe with a dilute detergent solution or detergent wipe between patients, or according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Never spray at or pour liquid onto the machine.
- Never use alcohol based or abrasive cleaners.

Best practice

- The most up to date information on Infection Control Policies & Guidelines can be found in the National Infection Prevention & Control Manual. (NIPCM) These can be found on the NIPCM website.
- <http://www.nipcm.hps.scot.nhs.uk/>