

DISPOSABLE PRIVACY CURTAINS: USE AT SCH PROCEDURE [®]

DOCUMENT SUMMARY/KEY POINTS

- This procedure outlines the safe use of disposable privacy curtains for use in Sydney Children’s Hospital, Randwick.
- Disposable privacy curtains can only be used in those areas that have been approved by the facility or service executive.
- When disposable curtains are used the replacement of these must be in accordance with the written procedure. This procedure will be audited to measure compliance.
- Disposable privacy curtains will be changed:
 - Routinely at 12 months, or
 - When contaminated with blood or other body fluids, or
 - If torn or damaged in any way, or
 - Following discharge of a patient suspected or diagnosed with *Clostridium difficile* or *Norovirus* as part of the ‘terminal clean’.

CHANGE SUMMARY

- New document

READ ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- All ward, unit or department clinical nurses and SCH Hotel Services staff are to read and acknowledge this document.
- No specific training required

This document reflects what is currently regarded as safe practice. However, as in any clinical situation, there may be factors which cannot be covered by a single set of guidelines. This document does not replace the need for the application of clinical judgement to each individual presentation.

Approved by:	SCHN Policy, Procedure and Guideline Committee	
Date Effective:	1 st January 2015	Review Period: 3 years
Team Leader:	Director of Nursing	Area/Dept: Nursing SCH

1 Policy Statement

Disposable privacy curtains can only be used in those areas that have been approved by the facility or service executive. The disposable curtains approved for use within Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick are Haines® Disposable Curtains ^[1] and have the following properties:

- Manufactured from 100% polypropylene, non-woven fabric – 120gsm
- Fire retardant (AS 2755.2-1985) – Failed to Burn
- Impregnated with antibacterial and anti-mildew chemicals including nanometer silver

Recommendations associated with the duration of curtain hanging time and indications for changing prior to this time has been determined based on the current available evidence ^[2] and manufacturer's advice.

When disposable curtains are used the replacement of these must be in accordance with the written procedure. This procedure will be audited to measure compliance.

2 Responsibilities

2.1 Employees will:

- Ensure that curtains are changed in accordance with the procedure detailed below.

2.2 Line Managers will:

- Ensure adequate supply of curtains available
- Ensure storage of curtains in such a manner as to control access to stock to those areas approved for use.
- Ensure that curtains are changed in accordance with the procedure detailed below.
- Undertake quarterly compliance audits.

2.3 Network Managers/ Service Managers will:

- Ensure that only those curtains approved for use within SCH are purchased.
- Monitor compliance with this procedure via compliance audit reports.

3 Procedure

3.1 Hanging disposable curtains

- Hand hygiene using Alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR)
- Keep disposable curtains in plastic sleeve
- Hold curtain so it does not touch the floor, hang curtain
- Write the date curtain was hung on the label at the top of the curtain

3.2 Schedule for changing disposable curtains

- Routinely change at 12 months, **or**
- When contaminated with blood or other body fluids, **or**
- If torn or damaged in any way, **or**
- Following discharge of a patient suspected or diagnosed with *Clostridium difficile* or Norovirus as part of the 'terminal clean'.
- When Infection Prevention and Control service (IP&C) has declared the end of an outbreak of *Clostridium difficile*, *Norovirus*, or other relevant pathogen, prior to lifting outbreak control measures and additional precautions for patients on the ward/unit.
- Disposable Curtains are to be changed more frequently if required based on the healthcare facilities risk assessment. A risk assessment should be done by the nursing and cleaning staff, in conjunction with the Infection Prevention and Control Clinical Nurse Consultant, if there is a perceived need for more frequent changing of the curtains.

3.3 Changing disposable curtains

- Unhook curtains
- Hold them away from the body, do not throw onto the floor.
- Dispose of used curtains by carefully folding and placing into a large plastic bag.
 - Curtains not contaminated with blood or body fluids can be disposed as general waste or suitable recycling stream (to be advised by SCH Hotel Services).
 - Curtains contaminated with blood or body fluids to be disposed as clinical waste.
- Hand hygiene using ABHR or soap and water if previous patient known or suspected to have *Clostridium difficile* or at the end of an outbreak as described in [3.2](#).

4 Documentation

Not required

5 Audit

- Compliance audit to be undertaken initially every three months by ward/ unit managers. Once practice is established frequency of auditing can be assessed upon review of results.
- Audit results reported to the SCH Infection Prevention and Control Committee

6 Related Documents

- Infection Control – NSW Health
<http://chw.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/o/documents/policies/policies/2013-9042.pdf>
- Hand Hygiene <http://chw.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/o/documents/policies/policies/2013-9031.pdf>
- Clostridium Difficile (Toxogenic): Minimising Transmission – SCH
<http://chw.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/o/documents/policies/policies/2013-7052.pdf>

7 References

1. Haines Medical Australia, Haines® Disposable Curtains brochure
http://hainesmedical.com.au/images/stories/disposable_curtains/Haines_Disposable_Curtains_Brochure.pdf (accessed 12/11/2014)
2. Kotsanas, D et al, Disposable biocidal cubical curtains: can they prevent the transfer of bacterial pathogens? Healthcare Infection, 2012, 17, 87–90
3. Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD, Procedure document ISLHD-CLIN-PROC 58 Use of disposable privacy curtains in a hospital setting November 2012
http://islnweb/Policies_Procedures_Guidelines/Clinical/Infection_Control/documents/ISLHD-CLIN-PROC-58-UseofDisposablePrivacyCurtainsinhospitalSetting.pdf (accessed 12/11/2014)

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