healtHcentric
medical grade seating

healtHcentric and the Healthcare Industry:
How do our products relate to the Best Practices Guidelines for Environmental Cleaning for Prevention and Control of Infections (PIDAC)?

Introduction

To help improve the quality of care and client/patient/resident safety, Public Health Ontario (PHO) created the Best Practices Guidelines for Environmental Cleaning for Prevention and Control of Infections (PIDAC) document. This document offers evidence-based "best practices" as determined by an advisory committee comprised of health care professionals with expertise and experience in Infection and Prevention Control. It has become an important tool for healthcare organizations across Ontario and country-wide in the prevention and control of infections within healthcare facilities.

PIDAC document page 26:
"If You Can't Clean It, **Don't Buy it"**

healtHcentric products and our proprietary IC+™ Upholstery Solution* meets and exceeds the recommendations by PIDAC. The following pages contain reference materials from the PIDAC document that specifically relate to cleaning, furniture and finishes.

INFECTION CONTROL+
medical grade protection

*IC+ Upholstery Solution patent pending.

healtHcentric
medical grade seating

healtHcentric and PIDAC: How do we measure up?

Our line of healthcare seating meets these standards and exceeds the expectations of all the hospital departments – Infection Control, Environmental Services and Purchasing with our 10 year warrantee.

Absence of seams: • Seams may trap bacteria and are difficult areas to clean.	**IC+ Upholstery Solution is a highly durable and impermeable upholstery coating that is used to form a Seamless moisture-proof barrier including the underside of the seat pan on all healtHcentric chairs.**
Cleanability: • Furnishings, walls and equipment must be able to withstand cleaning and be compatible with hospital-grade detergents, cleaners and disinfectants. • Upholstered furniture in care areas must be covered with fabrics that are fluid-resistant, non-porous and can withstand cleaning with hospital-grade disinfectants	**IC+ offers superior cleanability as a non-porous upholstery coating.** **It can stand up to all healthcare cleaners and disinfectants including Rescue, bleach CaviCide, WexCide and Virox 5.**
Surface porosity: • Microorganisms have been shown to survive on porous fabrics such as cotton, cotton terry, nylon and polyester, and on plastics such as polyurethane and polypropylene. • Porous upholstered furniture and furnishings should not be used in care areas, particularly in areas where immunocompromised patients/residents are located.	**IC+ is a highly durable and impermeable upholstery solution. It is non-porous, moisture-proof and bed bug proof.**
Inability to support microbial growth: • Materials that hold moisture are more likely to support microbial growth. • Materials such as metals and hard plastics are less likely to support microbial growth. • Wet organic substrates (e.g., wood) should be avoided in hospital areas with immunocompromised patients.	**IC+ forms a seamless moisture proof barrier against all liquids and pathogens.** **healtHcentric chairs are built Using metal frames, highly durable plastics, polyurethane and chrome components.**

Quotes from PIDAC revised May 21, 2012

The following are a compilation of quotes from the PIDAC document dated May 21, 2012. These can be used as reference material or talking points.

Disclaimer for Best Practice Documents – Page ii

This document was developed by the Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee on Infection Prevention and Control (PIDAC-IPC). PIDAC-IPC is a multidisciplinary scientific advisory body that provides evidence-based advice to Public Health Ontario regarding multiple aspects of infectious disease identification, prevention and control. PIDAC-IPC's work is guided by the best available evidence and updated as required. Best practice documents and tools produced by PIDAC-IPC reflect consensus positions on what the committee deems prudent practice and are made available as a resource to public health and healthcare providers.

"If you can't clean it, don't buy it." – Page 26

Healthcare settings should have policies that include the criteria to be used when choosing furnishings and equipment for client/patient/resident care areas. This includes donated furnishings and other donated items in the healthcare setting, which must meet IPAC requirements for cleaning and disinfection. Prior to purchase, compatibility of materials and finishes with hospital-grade cleaners, detergents and disinfectants should be assured. When there is doubt about product compatibility, the manufacturer of the item should be consulted.

A process must be in place regarding cleaning of the healthcare environment that includes:

- Choosing finishes, furnishings and equipment that are cleanable.
- Ensuring compatibility of the healthcare setting's cleaning and disinfecting agents with the items and surfaces to be cleaned.
- Identifying when items can no longer be cleaned due to damage.

The ease of cleaning is an important consideration in the choice of materials for health are settings. This applies to medical equipment and all finishes and surfaces including materials for floors, ceilings, walls, and furnishings.

Surfaces in Healthcare Settings – Page 26 and 27

Important characteristics of surfaces in the healthcare setting for IPAC purposes include - ease of maintenance and repair:

- Fabrics that are torn allow for entry of microorganisms and cannot be properly cleaned.

Surfaces in Healthcare Settings – *Page 26 and 27 (continued)*

- Items that are scratched or chipped allow for accumulation of microorganisms and are more difficult to clean and disinfect.

Cleanability:

- Furnishings, walls and equipment must be able to withstand cleaning and be compatible with hospital-grade detergents, cleaners and disinfectants.
- Upholstered furniture in care areas must be covered with fabrics that are fluid-resistant, nonporous and can withstand cleaning with hospital-grade disinfectants.

Inability to support microbial growth:

- Materials that hold moisture are more likely to support microbial growth.
- Materials such as metals and hard plastics are less likely to support microbial growth.
- Wet organic substrates (e.g., wood) should be avoided in hospital areas with immunocompromised patients.

Surface porosity:

- Microorganisms have been shown to survive on porous fabrics such as cotton, cotton terry, nylon and polyester, and on plastics such as polyurethane and polypropylene.
- Porous upholstered furniture and furnishings should not be used in care areas, particularly in areas where immunocompromised patients/residents are located.

Absence of seams:

- Seams may trap bacteria and are difficult areas to clean.

New Products with "antibacterial" claims – *Page 27*

Although new products are being developed that are coated with materials that retard bacterial growth, there is no evidence that antimicrobial impregnation of items in the environment is associated with a reduced risk of infection or cross-transmission of microorganisms in healthcare. Product 'antibacterial' claims should be carefully evaluated before replacing items.

Cloth and Soft Furnishings in Healthcare Settings – *Page 27*

Cloth furnishings have been shown to harbour higher concentrations of fungi than non-porous furnishings. In general, pathogenic bacteria cannot be effectively removed from the surfaces of upholstered furniture. Contaminated stuffing and foam cannot be decontaminated if breaks in fabric or leaks of body fluids or spills have occurred.

Cloth and Soft Furnishings in Healthcare Settings – *Page 27 (continued)*

Wherever feasible, an alternative to cloth surfaces should be used. Cloth items such as curtains, pillows, mattresses and soft furnishings should:

- Be seamless where possible or have double-stitched seams
- Be easily accessed for cleaning
- Have removable covers for cleaning
- Have foam cores that are resistant to mould
- Not be damaged by detergents and disinfectants
- Be quick-drying
- Be maintained in good repair.

Recommendations – *Page 29 and 30*

1. Healthcare settings should have policies that include the criteria to be used when choosing finishes, furnishings and equipment for client/patient/resident care areas.

2. Infection Prevention and Control, Environmental Services and Occupational Health and Safety should be involved in the selection of surfaces and finishes in healthcare settings.

3. In all healthcare settings:

    a. There must be a regular cleaning regimen in place.

    b. Worn, stained, cracked or torn furnishings must be replaced when identified.

    c. Upholstered furniture and other cloth or soft furnishings that cannot be cleaned and disinfected must not be used in care areas, especially where immunocompromised patients are located; the health care facility should have a plan to replace cloth furnishings with furnishings that can be cleaned and disinfected.

4. Surfaces, furnishings, equipment and finishes in healthcare settings should:

    a. Be easily maintained and repaired.

    b. Be cleanable with hospital-grade detergents, cleaners and disinfectants (except furnishings in long-term care homes where the furniture is supplied by the resident).

    c. Be smooth, nonporous, seamless and unable to support microbial viability.

Recommendations – *Page 29 and 30 (continued)*

5. Cloth items should:
    a. Be easily maintained and repaired.
    b. Be seamless or double-stitched.
    c. Be resistant to mould.
    d. Be cleanable with hospital-grade detergents, cleaners and disinfectants.
    e. Be quick-drying.

New Equipment/Product Purchases – *Page 34*

The administration of the health care setting is responsible for verifying that any item used in the provision of care to clients/patients/residents is capable of being cleaned and disinfected according to the most current standards and guidelines. This includes donated equipment, which must meet IPAC requirements for cleaning and disinfection. (Guideline recommend in PIDAC)

- All non-critical medical equipment that will be purchased and will be cleaned must include written item specific manufacturer's cleaning and disinfection instructions. If disassembly or reassembly is required, detailed instructions with pictures must be included. Staff training must be provided on these processes before the medical equipment is placed into circulation (e.g., patient lifts, specialized chairs and beds).

To review the entire PIDAC document visit:
www.oahpp.ca/services/pidac/index.html