SUBJECT: DISINFECTION OF COMMONLY SHARED GROOMING SUPPLIES AND/OR EQUIPMENT

1. **PURPOSE:**

   To maintain grooming supplies and/or equipment clean.

2. **POLICY:**

   The primary objective for disinfection of commonly shared grooming supplies and/or equipment is to minimize the risk of disease transmission. Cross-contamination is considered a high risk/risk management concern associated with the potential for blood contaminant exposure. The procedures are established from State regulations and State and Federal Public Health guidelines. All efforts are to insure that the CSH Infection Control Program is followed.

   1. Commonly shared grooming supplies and/or equipment that may be utilized by staff for individual’s care are identified as follows: finger nail clippers; toenail clippers; tweezers; curling iron; electric curlers; steam curlers; electric hair trimmer.

   2. Personal grooming items NOT TO BE SHARED between individuals are combs, hairbrushes and re-chargeable battery-operated shavers (men).

   3. Nursing staff shall not allow commonly shared grooming supplies and/or equipment to be utilized by or for other individuals until these items have been properly cleaned and disinfected.

   4. The unit Shift Leads of each shift, under the guidance and direction of the Unit Supervisor, are responsible for insuring staff compliance with the CSH Infection Control Program.
5. Each unit shall have properly labeled receptacles for the care of those grooming supplies requiring disinfection. One receptacle will be designated for those supplies with the disinfecting process in progress. Another receptacle will be designated for those supplies that have been used on an individual and are considered contaminated and requiring disinfection.

6. All disinfectant solutions shall remain covered at all times, and be changed whenever visibly cloudy or dirty.

7. Non-electric items (e.g. hair accessories, curlers) shall be cleaned with soap (or detergent) and water, then disinfected by immersion for at least 20 minutes in a solution with bactericidal, fungicidal, tuberculocidal, and virucidal properties such as a quaternary ammonium compound or equivalent, approved by the Infection Control Committee. (See Infection Control – List of Approved Cleaning and Disinfecting Agents)

8. Non-electrical items with a sharp point or edge that have the potential to pierce the skin and draw blood (e.g. scissors, tweezers, cuticle clippers, manicure- pedicure scissors, etc.) shall be disinfected by cleaning with soap (or detergent) and water and then totally immersing in a solution with bactericidal, fungicidal, tuberculocidal, and/or virucidal properties, approved by the Infection Control Committee for at least 20 minutes.

9. Electric and non-electric hair clippers/trimmer shall be disinfected prior to each use by first removing all foreign matter from the clipper blade followed by totally immersing the individual's clipper blade in an approved solution for at least 20 minutes.

10. An electric curling iron shall be disinfected by cleansing the contact site with an approved solution.

8. All disinfected grooming supplies and equipment shall be stored in a designated secure, clean, and covered location.

12. Safety, security, and supervision measures for these items will be maintained at all times.

13. Individual teaching, discouraging the sharing of personal grooming items and supplies, shall be an ongoing endeavor with all individuals.

3. PRECAUTIONS:

1. Grooming items with sharp points and edges are to be utilized with the utmost care to avoid any potential for individual or staff injury.
2. **IN ALL REASONABLY ANTICIPATED EXPOSURES TO BLOOD OR OTHER POTENTIALLY INFECTIOUS MATERIAL, PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND ENGINEERING CONTROLS SHALL BE UTILIZED.**

**EQUIPMENT NEEDED:**

1. Emesis basin (to soak the item)
2. Disinfectant solution approved by Infection Control Committee
3. Clean towel
4. Plastic container

**4. **PROCEDURE:**

Non-electrical items (hair accessories):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>NURSING ACTION</strong></th>
<th><strong>KEY POINTS</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Remove all foreign matter, oils, and other substances that can impair the disinfection process by scrubbing with soap and water. Rinse thoroughly.</td>
<td>A. Apply friction as needed to enhance this cleaning process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Immerse the items in an approved solution for at least 20 minutes. Place on a clean, dry towel to air dry.</td>
<td>B. Total immersion of the objects and proper time span ensures effective disinfection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Maintain these items in a clean, dry, covered storage area.</td>
<td>C. Cover with a plastic container or plastic baggie or wrap in a clean towel before placing in a cabinet or drawer.</td>
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Non-electrical items with a sharp point or edge (e.g. scissors, nail clippers, tweezers, cuticle clippers, manicure pedicure scissors, non-electric hair clippers, etc.)

<table>
<thead>
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<th><strong>NURSING ACTION</strong></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Remove all foreign matter, oils, and other substances that can impair the disinfection process by scrubbing with soap and water. Rinse thoroughly.</td>
<td>A. Initiate the cleaning process with the utmost care to avoid piercing the skin.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**B. Immerse the objects and leave them in approved solution for at least twenty (20) minutes.**

**B. Total immersion of the objects and proper time span ensures effective disinfection.**

**C. All disinfected items shall be stored in a clean covered place.**

**C. Place is a covered plastic container or plastic baggie, or wrap in a clean towel before placing in a cabinet or drawer.**

### Electrical Instruments (e.g. hair clippers/trimmer):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. Disinfect hair clippers and other electrical grooming instruments prior to each use.</th>
<th>A. Personal electric razors owned by individuals and hospital issued re-chargeable &amp; battery-operated shavers for all individuals are not to be shared. Hospital issued shavers may be obtained from the Warehouse. These battery-operated shavers are to be considered the individual’s property and are to be sent with the individual on transfer to another unit. The “men's” shavers are to be sent to Central Supply for disposal of appropriate removable parts, disinfection, and re-issue.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B. Remove all foreign matter.</td>
<td>B. The methods for removing all foreign matter may differ depending upon the equipment. Some equipment may require a clean brush, other equipment may require a clean cloth or cotton swab.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. The clipper/trimmer blade shall be disinfected by cleansing with soap (or detergent) and water followed by totally immersing the clipper/trimmer portion in an approved solution for at least 20 minutes.</td>
<td>C. Allow to air dry on a towel.</td>
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<tr>
<td>D. Closed cabinets and drawers are considered clean.</td>
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