

Disinfectant Wipes: Instruction For Use Statement

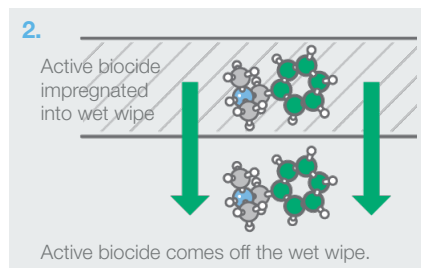
It is now generally accepted that the hospital environment is a contributor to hospital acquired infections, this includes the medical equipment and devices in the hospital particularly those in the near patient area. As such, they require regular disinfection in a controlled and systematic manner.

An effective method for doing this is the use of disinfectant wipes. These have been shown to be an efficient

and cost effective means of achieving a hygienic and safe environment in the modern hospital setting.

Disinfectant wipes work in two ways. Firstly, soiling and bacteria are taken up by the wipe and removed from the surface or item disinfected. The bacteria will be killed on the wipe, which in any case is safely disposed of in the appropriate waste stream.

Secondly, a film or layer of disinfectant is applied to the surface as a water based solution. This layer dries on the surface and the time taken for the surface to dry is referred to as the contact time.



Standard microbiological tests are used to confirm the efficacy of the product in the drying/contact time. After the aqueous solution has dried the active biocides remain as a film on the surface, which can have some residual activity in conditions of high humidity.

It is accepted that over time surfaces in a busy hospital will become recontaminated quite quickly. It is necessary therefore that application of the disinfectant is repeated on a regular basis.

Although the disinfectant film is very thin, only a few molecules thick, over time a build-up may become apparent. This may appear as stickiness or surface discolouration. This is aesthetically and practically undesirable. It is therefore prudent that any disinfection regime for equipment includes a periodic wipe down with a damp disposable cloth wetted simply with potable water.

This should not be necessary more than once a week. The water wipe cloth should also be disposed of in the appropriate waste stream. A periodic wipe down is not required when using alcohol wipes as due to the 30% water content they only cause water marks.

