

Disinfection of Reusable Inpatient Tablet Equipment and Accessories

Telemedicine equipment such as tablet and Bluetooth speakers are used to support clinical care and facilitate communication between patients and their loved ones.

NOTE: Bluetooth speakers should be sealed in a plastic bag and double-bagged at all times when used in an isolation room. (NOTE: Speaker battery lasts 12 hours with continuous use; charging time is 3 hours. Speakers should be removed from the room to re-charge.)

When telemedicine equipment is no longer needed, use the following steps to safely remove contaminated equipment from the room.

Rooms WITH anteroom:

- While still in the room at the anteroom door:
 - Lock tablet screen and power down all Bluetooth speakers; gather all supplies including tablet, tablet charging cord, Bluetooth speakers, IV pole, and bracket near the patient room exit
 - Doff contaminated gloves and perform hand hygiene; don clean gloves and use an EPA-registered, hospital-approved, non-sporicidal disinfectant wipe(s) to clean the tablet, bracket and IV pole
 - Using a new wipe, disinfect the charging cord, and speaker bag
 - Using the same wipe, open the anteroom door but do not move into anteroom space
 - From the patient room, push the IV pole into the anteroom; then open the outer speaker bag and gently drop the speaker still inside the inner bag into the “clean” bin inside the anteroom
 - Remain inside the patient room and close anteroom door; remove shoe covers and exit room following published PPE doffing procedures
- In the Anteroom:
 - After appropriately doffing PPE, perform hand hygiene and don clean gloves; remove the tablet from the holding bracket to allow the entire surface of the tablet to be disinfected; use an EPA-registered, hospital-approved, non-sporicidal disinfectant wipe(s) to wipe down the tablet, bracket and IV pole
 - Observe disinfectant contact time and hand items to helper in the corridor and push the IV pole with tablet in the holding bracket out of the anteroom and into the corridor
 - Using a new wipe, disinfect the speaker bag
 - Open the inner speaker bag and grasp the speaker using the bag as a barrier and carefully slide bag down without contaminating speaker to reveal speaker and offer it to a helper outside the anteroom; discard the bag; do not use a disinfectant wipe on the speaker
- In the Corridor:
 - Helper performs hand hygiene, dons clean gloves and accepts the tablet, bracket, IV pole and charging cord; when receiving the speaker, helper avoids touching the plastic bag during the removal process
 - Place the tablet back into the bracket for storage/redeployment

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Rooms WITHOUT anteroom:

- While still in the room at the door:
 - Lock tablet screen and power down all Bluetooth speakers. Gather all supplies including tablet, tablet charging cord, Bluetooth speakers, IV pole, and bracket near the patient room exit
 - Doff contaminated gloves and perform hand hygiene. Don clean gloves and use an EPA-registered, hospital-approved, non-sporicidal disinfectant wipe(s) to clean the tablet, bracket and IV pole
 - Using a new wipe, Remove the tablet from the holding bracket and wipe all surfaces covered by the bracket the first time; also disinfect charging cord
 - Observe disinfectant contact time and using the same wipe, open the door and hand tablet, charging cord and bracket to helper in the corridor and push the IV pole out of the room; close the door
 - Using a new wipe, disinfect the speaker bag, then open the door using the same wipe; open the outer speaker bag and gently drop the speaker still inside the inner bag into the “clean” bin in the corridor
 - Close door while still inside the room, remove shoe covers, and exit room following published PPE doffing procedures
- In the Corridor:
 - Helper performs hand hygiene and dons clean gloves
 - Using a new wipe(s) disinfect the tablet, bracket, IV pole and charging cord; replace tablet into the bracket
 - Using a new wipe, disinfect the inner speaker bag; then open the inner speaker bag and grasp the speaker using the bag as a barrier and carefully slide bag down without contaminating the speaker to reveal the speaker and offer it to a helper also wearing clean gloves; discard the bag
 - When receiving the speaker, helper avoids touching the plastic bag during the removal process; do not use a disinfectant wipe on the speaker
 - Place the tablet back into the bracket for storage/redeployment