

17.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

17.1-1 What is the difference between deactivating, decontaminating, cleaning, and disinfecting?

- ▶ *Deactivating* renders a substance inert.
- ▶ *Decontaminating* removes substances from the surface using a disposable wiper.
- ▶ *Cleaning* removes residue such as dirt from surfaces using a cleaning agent and manual process.
- ▶ *Disinfecting* is then done to ensure the surfaces are free from contamination.

17.1-2 <800> mentions decontaminating, but <797> doesn't. Why? Do I still need to decontaminate my chemo areas?

Yes. You need to decontaminate areas where hazardous drugs are handled. Decontamination isn't mentioned in <797> because all hazardous drug handling needs to comply with both <797> and <800>. See <800>⁴ for those details.

17.1-3 Why are sporicidals used?

These agents applied at an appropriate concentration for the contact (dwell) time listed in the product labeling destroy spores.

17.1-4 Which is done first: cleaning or disinfecting?

Cleaning is done first, then following by disinfecting surfaces. An Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered one-step disinfectant cleaner may be able to be used according to the manufacturer's instructions to perform both steps in one application.

17.1-5 Do I need to wear garb when cleaning?

Yes. Cleaning inside the sterile compounding area requires the same garb as when compounding. In some cases, additional eye and respiratory protection may be needed. Many organizations include goggles to protect eyes when cleaning agents are used above waist level. Check the manufacturer's information for the solutions you are using for additional information specific to that chemical.

17.1-6 What does *dwelt time* mean?

Dwell time is the amount of time a solution needs to be wet and in contact with the surface to meet the product claims. The dwell time for EPA-registered one-step disinfectant cleaning solutions is listed on the product labeling. Because of the air flow in the PECs and compounding suites, a long dwell time is impractical; the agent won't stay wet for the required time. A required dwell time more than 3 minutes may be impractical.

17.1-7 We always clean with sterile alcohol. Is that enough?

No. Alcohol is not a cleaner; it is a disinfectant/sanitizing agent. You need to use an agent that contains a detergent or surfactant to clean.

17.1-8 Is alcohol a sanitizing agent?

Yes. 70% sterile isopropyl alcohol (sIPA) is the sanitizing agent used when compounding sterile preparations.

17.1-9 Can an ultraviolet light be used to sanitize an area?

It cannot be used instead of 70% sterile isopropyl alcohol (sIPA).

7.1-10 Is sterile alcohol required in <797>?

Yes. When alcohol is used in or on the PEC or containers being placed in the PEC, 70% sterile isopropyl alcohol is required.

17.1-11 Should cleaning agents be rotated?

There is no requirement to rotate agents to combat the development of microbial resistance. Bactericidal cleaning agents are used as daily cleaners, but a sporicidal cleaning agent must be used monthly. This is not rotation per se, but a different agent is selected because it has different actions.

17.1-12 Are reusable mops acceptable to use?

They are not prohibited, but consider the process you use. Standardizing on disposable mop heads removes the concern of spreading contamination from one area to another.

17.1-13 What is the best way to monitor that cleaning has been done?

The designated person should monitor that this is done. Cleaning done daily or less frequently needs to be documented. Some state regulations require additional or more frequent documentation.

17.1-14 Do pharmacy personnel need to do all the cleaning of sterile compounding areas?

Only compounders with documented competence in sterile compounding can clean PECs and other sensitive equipment. Either pharmacy or environmental ser-