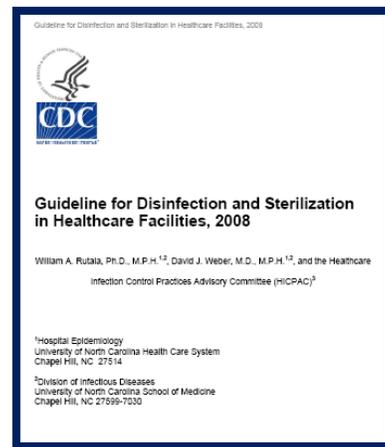


CDC 2008 Disinfection and Sterilization Guideline (2/09)

Rutala WA, Weber DJ, and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee. Guideline for disinfection and sterilization in healthcare facilities, 2008:1–158.

The Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare Facilities, 2008 presents evidence-based recommendations on the preferred methods for cleaning, disinfection and sterilization of medical devices and the health-care environment. This document supercedes relevant sections contained in the 1985 Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Guideline for Handwashing and Environmental Control. Because maximum effectiveness from disinfection and sterilization results from first cleaning and removing organic and inorganic materials, this document also reviews cleaning methods. The chemical disinfectants recommended for patient-care equipment include alcohols, glutaraldehyde, formaldehyde, hydrogen peroxide, iodophors, *ortho*-phthalaldehyde, peracetic acid, phenolics, quaternary ammonium compounds, and chlorine. The choice of disinfectant, concentration, and exposure time is based on the risk of infection associated with the use of the equipment and other factors discussed in this guideline. The sterilization methods discussed include steam sterilization, ethylene oxide (ETO), hydrogen peroxide gas plasma, and liquid peracetic acid. When properly used, these cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization processes can reduce the risk for infection associated with use of invasive and noninvasive medical and surgical devices. However, for these processes to be effective, health-care workers should adhere strictly to the cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization recommendations in this document and to instructions on product labels.



In addition to updated recommendations, new topics addressed in this guideline include 1) inactivation of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, bioterrorist agents, emerging pathogens, and bloodborne pathogens; 2) toxicologic, environmental, and occupational concerns associated with disinfection and sterilization practices; 3) disinfection of patient-care equipment used in ambulatory settings and home care; 4) new sterilization processes, such as hydrogen peroxide gas plasma and liquid peracetic acid; and 5) disinfection of complex medical instruments (e.g., endoscopes).

DECS Comment: The new CDC disinfection and sterilization guideline concludes that when properly used, disinfection and sterilization can ensure the safe use of invasive and non-invasive medical devices and that current disinfection and sterilization guidelines must be strictly followed. The *USAF Guidelines for Infection Control in Dentistry* cover disinfection and sterilization in depth and there are no changes to these practices in dental health-care settings. The updated CDC guideline will serve as an excellent resource in addition to other CDC infection-control guidelines and the *USAF Guidelines for Infection Control in Dentistry*. The CDC Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare Facilities, 2008 is available by visiting http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/pdf/guidelines/Disinfection_Nov_2008.pdf. The guideline will also be published in the MMWR at a later date.