

SE IPAC Hub Tip Sheet: Electronic Devices in Healthcare – All Settings



Important Reminders

- Electronic equipment that cannot be adequately cleaned, disinfected or covered should not enter the immediate care environment.
- Hand hygiene is the most important factor in the prevention of transmission of microorganisms.
- Avoid using personal devices in the care environment if possible.

Tips to protect Electronic Devices:

- ✓ Position equipment to avoid contact with anticipated spatter/droplets.
- ✓ Avoid laying contaminated items on unprotected equipment surfaces.
- ✓ Use barriers on equipment surfaces that you expect to touch with contaminated hands or when contact with spatter cannot be avoided (e.g., keyboard skins, phone or tablet case).

Electronic devices are no different than other equipment with respect to cleaning and disinfection. Electronic devices become contaminated with microorganisms and can transmit organisms, depending on how and where the device is used, cleaned and disinfected.

IPAC Practice recommendations for Electronic (IT) devices:

Hand Hygiene

- Electronic devices should be approached with clean hands.
- Hand hygiene should be performed before and after accessing a device.

Cleaning & Disinfection

- All touch surfaces of Electronic devices in a care area must be cleaned and disinfected with a hospital-grade disinfectant (per manufacturer's instructions).
- Electronic devices should be cleaned in a manner that prevents damage to internal systems from excessive fluid. The user/owner of the device is responsible for routine cleaning and disinfection of the device by following facility protocols for cleaning and disinfection after each use.

Covers & Protective sleeves

- Electronic devices used within the care environment that are difficult to clean and disinfect should be covered with a clean plastic covering before entry (e.g., sandwich bag)
- The cover should be cleaned and disinfected, or discarded, upon removal from the care environment.

Phone/tablet Cases

- Select a case that creates minimal gaps or edges and has a smooth, nonporous surface for easy cleaning
- Be aware of case manufactures cleaning and disinfection recommendations

Items that cannot be adequately cleaned & disinfected should not be used or should be designated as “clean” and not be accessed in the care environment.

