

Products for **DISINFECTING** MIDWIFERY EQUIPMENT

When using reusable equipment, ensure the appropriate level of cleaning and disinfection or **sterilization** is achieved. This table uses **Spaulding's Classification of Equipment and Medical Devices** to categorize the level of cleaning required (i.e. low-level disinfection (LLD), high-level disinfection (HLD) or sterilization) based on the classification of that equipment (i.e. non-critical, semi-critical or critical).

All products used for disinfection need a drug identification number (DIN) from Health Canada, appropriate labelling and storage, and **Safety Data Sheets**. **Personal protective equipment** (PPE) needs to be available for midwives and/or staff using disinfectants and handling contaminated medical devices.

| Classification | Definition | Requirement | Examples of Effective Products (excluding products with 10 minute contact times, such as alcohol and Thymol, as these are impractical) | | | | Use Considerations |
|----------------|---|--------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|------|---|
| | | | Chemical product | Sample Brand | Wet contact time ¹ | Cost | |
| Non-critical | Items that do not directly touch the client or touch only intact skin (e.g. stethoscope, Doppler, sphygmomanometer) | Cleaning followed by LLD | Hydrogen peroxide Enhanced action formulation (0.5%) (1) | Accel PREvention wipes (general use) – by Virox | 3 min | \$\$ | STEPS: One step cleaner, disinfectant QUALITY: Excellent cleaning ability; broad microbicidal spectrum. Generally incompatible for use on copper, brass, carbon and anodised aluminium (1) TOXICITY: Non-toxic; environmentally safe (1) |
| | | | | Accel INTERvention wipes (during outbreak) – by Virox | 1 min | \$\$ | |
| | | | | Clorox Healthcare Hydrogen Peroxide Cleaner Disinfectant Wipes | 5 min (1 min if not for TB and fungi) | \$ | |
| | | | Chlorines (e.g. bleach) | Clorox Healthcare bleach germicidal wipes | 3 min | \$ | STEP: If chlorine only, does not clean. If paired with a surfactant cleans and disinfects in one step QUALITY: Excellent disinfectant; broad microbicidal spectrum (2) Toxicity: None reported. May cause irritation; use gloves. (4) Use in well-ventilated areas. May cause staining |
| | | | Quaternary ammonium compounds (QUATs) | CaviWipes | 3 min | \$ | STEPS: 2 step disinfectant: use wipe to clean, then another wipe to disinfect QUALITY: Good cleaning ability, but narrow microbicidal spectrum; limited use as disinfectant (1) |
| CaviWipes1 | 1 min | \$ | | TOXICITY: Not to be used to disinfect instruments; harmful if absorbed through skin (5) Use in well-ventilated areas | | | |

¹The longest wet contact time is used to determine the length of time the product should remain wet (e.g. if the kill claim is between 30 seconds to 3 minutes for different microorganisms, keep surface wet with product for 3 min).

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| Classification | Definition | Requirement | Recommendations |
|----------------------|--|---|--|
| Semi-critical | Items that come into contact with non-intact skin or intact mucous membranes, but do not penetrate tissue (e.g., speculum, laryngoscope) | Cleaning followed by HLD at minimum; sterilization is preferred | <i>Sterilization is a more practical and preferred method of cleaning semi-critical medical devices. Since HLD is a complex process, products required to effectively achieve HLD are not listed in this table.</i> |
| Critical | Items that enter body tissues, allowing for direct contact with the bloodstream (e.g., needle driver, cord scissors) | Cleaning followed by sterilization (i.e., steam sterilization) | <i>Some Ontario midwifery practice groups manage their own reprocessing of critical equipment. Refer to the Midwifery Guide to Reprocessing.</i> |

This resource is for educational purposes only. Midwives should modify it to reflect local community standards, current practice, applicable evidence, legislation and CMO standards.

REFERENCES

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2. Moriarty, J. Public Health, Region of Peel. Chemical Disinfectants: Unraveling the Mystery. [Internet] Peel, ON. [Publisher unknown] September 2014. [cited 2018 Apr 1] Available from: <https://www.peelregion.ca/health/professionals/events/pdf/2014/chemical-disinfectants-unraveling.pdf>
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5. The Clorox Company. Safety Data Sheet (SDS) CaviWipes. 2 ed. [Internet] Oakland, CA. March 2016. [cited 2018 Apr 1] Available from: [http://www.metrex.com/sites/default/files/content/education-file/education-file-upload/CaviWipes%20US%20GHS%20SDS%20\(3.23.2016\).pdf](http://www.metrex.com/sites/default/files/content/education-file/education-file-upload/CaviWipes%20US%20GHS%20SDS%20(3.23.2016).pdf)