

Bag Technique Procedure

PURPOSE

- ☐To prevent contamination of the visit bag
- ☐To prevent cross-contamination and spread of infectious organisms

RELATED PROCEDURES

- ☐Hand washing
- ☐Maintaining Medical Supplies and Equipment in the Car

EQUIPMENT

1. Visit bag with impermeable lining
2. Paper towels
3. Suitable barrier
4. Leak-proof and puncture-proof container for bag storage in the car
5. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer
6. Liquid soap (bar soap can be a haven for bacteria)
7. An impermeable plastic trash bag (see Infection Control)

NOTE: Disposable paper or plastic, disinfectant gel, paper towels, soap and antiseptic cleanser shall be kept in a compartment on outside of bag.

PROCEDURE

1. Observe the principles of Standard Precautions at all times. The inside of the visit bag should be regarded and maintained as a clean area. Never enter without cleansing hands and all equipment must be cleaned before replacing into bag.
2. Transport the visit bag in the car on top of a clean barrier. In addition, the bag should be stored in a clean area of the car, preferably in a closeable plastic or cardboard container designated for such use.
3. Once in the patient's home, select the cleanest and most convenient work area and spread the barrier.
4. Place the bag on the middle of the barrier so that you will have one side for clean and one side for dirty.
5. Prepare a receptacle (impermeable plastic trash bag for disposable items).
6. Remove items needed to wash hands (hand washing supplies should be kept in a side pocket or extra zippered area, at the top of the bag) and take to sink area (if using antimicrobial soap).
Use the visit bag as few times as possible.
7. Cleanse and dry hands according to the *procedure* for Hand washing.
8. Return to the visit bag, open it again, remove necessary items for the visit and place on clean area of barrier. Apply personal protective equipment as needed. Keep the bag closed during the visit. If additional equipment or supplies are needed from the bag during the home visit, the hand washing procedure must be repeated. Never enter the clean area of the bag without cleansing hands.
9. Discard disposable personal protective equipment in an impermeable plastic trash bag. To discard a disposable gown or plastic apron, remove the apron by folding the exposed side inward.
10. After providing care, clean all equipment with a home health agency-approved

Use disinfectant wipes to clean equipment before returning it to the bag. Return unused clean supplies to the visit bag after care is completed. Contaminated equipment or equipment that cannot be cleaned in the patient's home may be transported for disinfection to the home health agency in an impermeable sealed plastic bag placed on the floor of the car (preferably in a closed container; "dirty"). Never place used needles, soiled equipment, or dressings in the visit bag.

12. Wash hands. Discard any remaining items according to Standard Precautions. Return cleaning supplies (e.g., hand sanitizer, liquid soap) to the visit bag.

13. The visit bag should be thoroughly cleaned, and restocked as necessary, at least monthly.

14. Rolling bags are discouraged because of the risk of cross-contamination as the bag is rolled from client's home to client's home.

Bag Technique Procedure In-service Test

1. There must always be one zippered area of the bag that is considered very clean and is never entered without cleansing hands.

True:___

False:___

2. When transporting the visit bag, it should always be kept in:
 1. The back seat of the car, on the floor.
 2. A clean box in the trunk or on the back seat of the car
 3. A paper bag in the trunk or on the back seat of the car
 4. A safe area

3. The type of visit bag used by the care giver should be:
 1. An easily carried shoulder bag
 2. A rolling bag that can be pulled behind the care giver in travel
 3. A blue color
 4. Marked with the agency logo

4. Once brought into the client's home, the visit bag should be placed:
 1. On the floor
 2. In an uncluttered area, on a hard surface, covered with a barrier
 3. In the bathroom
 4. In the kitchen

5. All items such as stethoscope, scissors, blood pressure cuff, thermometer, oximeter must be kept in the "clean" zippered area of the bag, placed on the clean side of the barrier until ready to use with the client. Once the items have been used the items must:
 1. Be placed on the dirty side of the barrier. After cleansing hands, clean with a sanitizing agent, and replace in the clean area of the bag which is then zippered closed.
 2. Be placed directly back into the bag
 3. Left in the bath room for washing with soap and water
 4. Be left next to the client

6. The visit bag should be thoroughly cleaned and re-stocked at least once monthly.

True:___

False:___

7. When discarding personal protective equipment, one must do so using:
 1. Whatever you can find in the home
 2. An impermeable plastic trash bag
 3. Gloves and putting directly into the patient's trash
 4. Your visit bag

8. During the visit, the bag should be:
 1. Kept within eyesight and zippered at all times (when not in use)
 2. Kept on the caregiver's shoulder
 3. Put on the floor next to the client
 4. Put in a closed area

9. Contaminated equipment or equipment that cannot be cleaned in the patient's home may:
 1. Be left with the patient
 2. Transported for disinfection to the agency in an impermeable, sealed plastic bag
 3. Sprayed off with a garden hose outside the home
 4. Washed as best you can and put back in the visit bag

10. Careful bag technique should be used:
 1. So you don't have to replace it often
 2. To prevent cross contamination and spread of infectious organisms
 3. To keep your car clean
 4. Because the agency policy says so

ANSWERS for Bag Technique In-service Test:

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1. True_
2. b_
3. a_
4. b_
5. a_
6. True_
7. b
8. a
9. b
10. b