

# Healthcare Bag Techniques

## Purposes:

- Prevent contamination of the healthcare bag.
- Protect patients, family members and healthcare workers from the spread of infection.
- Demonstrate compliance with federal, state and local laws and regulations, accreditation standards, infection control principles and standard precautions.

## What you should have in your bag:

- alcohol wipes
- adhesive remover
- adhesive bandages
- non-sterile 4x4s
- tape, 1 inch paper
- tape, 1 inch adhesive
- antiseptic towelettes
- blood pressure cuff
- red bags for disposables
- hard surface disinfectant
- spill cleanup kit
- penlight
- personal protection kit (PPE)
- gloves, non-sterile
- gloves, sterile

- bag barrier, disposable
- liquid soap
- waterless hand cleanser
- paper towels
- sharps container
- stethoscope
- thermometer
- water soluble lubricant
- oral barrier device for CPR
- betadine wipes
- foley catheter sets
- sterile cotton swabs
- drainage bags
- enemas
- gauze pads, sterile
- gloves
- hydrogen peroxide
- kling
- miscellaneous special dressings
- leg bag for catheter
- normal saline
- irrigation syringes
- skin prep
- syringes
- needles
- butterfly needles
- tape measure, disposable
- waterproof pads
- venipuncture equipment
- urine containers

## Procedure:

1. Select a bag that has at least 3 separate compartments, one of which should be lockable to secure patient files.
2. Designate 2 'clean' compartments, one for clean disposables and the other for patient records.
3. Pack the bag with necessary supplies before leaving for visits. Pack hand washing supplies near the top for easy access.
4. Store the bag in a clean cardboard box or other separate compartment of the car.
5. Do not take bag into 'infested homes' or homes of patients with MRSA or VRE.
6. In the home, identify a clean and safe area for the bag.
  - a. Choose a place to set the bag that gives you enough work space, is close to the patient and is away from pets and children.
  - b. Never set the bag on the floor.
7. Spread an impervious barrier on the surface before setting the bag down.
8. Plan where you will discard disposable items and sharps ahead of time.
9. Remove hand washing supplies first. Wash and dry hands thoroughly.
10. Remove items from the bag needed to evaluate your patient.
11. Wash your hands again if you must re-enter the bag for additional supplies during patient care.
12. Sharps disposal: Only use an approved sharps disposables container; it must be kept in a separate 'dirty' compartment.
13. Discard disposables in a sealed trash bag in the patient's home and transport according to agency policy.
14. Bag soiled reusables that cannot be cleaned in the patient's home and transport according to agency policy. Do not put back back into bag.

15. Wash your hands and repack your bag.
16. Clean and inspect the bag every week.
  - a. Hand wash in mild soap and warm water, air dry.
  - b. Spray inside and outside with Lysol spray.
  - c. Restock your bag and organize the contents.