

SOP: Decontamination and Post-Call Ambulance Cleaning

This SOP details the **decontamination and post-call ambulance cleaning** procedures, including thorough cleaning and disinfecting of all surfaces, equipment, and patient care areas after each call. It covers the use of appropriate cleaning agents, personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements, waste disposal protocols, and maintaining hygiene standards to prevent cross-contamination and ensure a safe environment for patients and ambulance staff.

1. Purpose

To provide standardized procedures for decontaminating and cleaning ambulances after each call to minimize infection risk and maintain a safe environment.

2. Scope

This SOP applies to all ambulance staff and covers cleaning and disinfection of the vehicle, medical equipment, and patient care areas immediately after patient transport.

3. Responsibilities

- **Ambulance Staff:** Responsible for following decontamination procedures as outlined.
- **Supervisors:** Ensure compliance and provide necessary supplies and training.

4. Required Materials & PPE

Material / Equipment	Purpose
Disposable gloves	Personal protection
Eye protection / Face shield	Personal protection
Disposable gown or apron	Personal protection
Approved disinfectants	Surface & equipment disinfection
Detergents	General cleaning
Disposable towels/cloths	Wiping surfaces
Sharps containers and waste bags	Safe disposal of waste

5. Procedure

5.1 Preparation

1. Park ambulance in a well-ventilated area.
2. Ensure vehicle is secure and engine off.
3. Put on appropriate PPE (gloves, gown, mask, eye protection).

5.2 Cleaning & Disinfection

1. Dispose of single-use items and waste in designated bags/containers.
2. Remove linen and place in soiled laundry bags.
3. Clean all visible soiling from surfaces using detergent and disposable cloths.
4. Disinfect all high-touch surfaces, including:
 - Stretcher and restraints
 - Door handles (interior/exterior)
 - Cabinets and work surfaces
 - Equipment (monitors, suction units, oxygen delivery devices)
 - Seats and flooring
5. Allow disinfectant to remain on surfaces per manufacturer's recommended contact time.
6. Wipe dry with clean, disposable towels if required.
7. Inspect for missed areas and repeat steps as necessary.

5.3 Equipment Cleaning

1. Clean and disinfect reusable medical equipment per manufacturer's guidelines.
2. Allow equipment to air dry before storage.

5.4 Waste Management

1. Seal waste bags and dispose in designated biomedical waste bins.
2. Clean and disinfect waste receptacles.

5.5 Finishing Up

1. Remove PPE carefully and dispose in appropriate waste containers.
2. Perform hand hygiene with soap and water or hand sanitizer.
3. Restock supplies and equipment as needed.
4. Document cleaning in ambulance cleaning log.

6. Documentation

- Ambulance cleaning log to be completed after each cleaning.
- Report any issues or supply shortages to supervisor.

7. References

- Manufacturer's instructions for disinfectants and medical equipment.
- Organizational policies on infection control and waste management.
- Relevant local and national health guidelines.