

Keep It Clean

Extract from D.O.H. Document.

Ambulance interiors should be thoroughly cleaned (including inside cupboards, walls and equipment), as specified in the National Patient Safety Agency's cleaning specification.

All equipment used for patient treatment – for example monitors, carry chairs, spinal boards, scoop stretchers and all other items used for the movement of patients – should be cleaned using detergent wipes or soap and water then either air-dried or wiped with clean paper towels after every patient use.

Extra attention must be given to items soiled with blood and/or body fluids; these should also be wiped with chlorine-based fluid to decontaminate them after cleaning with detergent.

Extra attention to cleaning is required immediately after the transport of any patient with diarrhoea, as the infection status of the patient may not be known. The vehicle interior, including the walls and floors and all items used to treat the patient, must first be cleaned with soap and water and then with chlorine-based fluid, to ensure that any infected matter is removed – as, for example, *Clostridium difficile* spores are only removed by thorough cleaning and chlorine disinfection.