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IPAC BEST PRACTICES GUIDELINE

Water Shutdown – Considerations Prior to Water Disruption

DATE: November 19, 2018

REVISED DATE:

REVIEWED DATE:

LIMITATIONS OF THIS DOCUMENT:

- Not determined which department or delegate would be responsible to implement the guidelines and whether a coordinator should be appointed to oversee the process.
- Need to determine where to store materials.
- If at all possible, it is best to restrict water disruptions to times of low activity.

GUIDELINES:

- Send out email notification regarding water shutdown date, timeframe, and cautions regarding brown water discoloration.
- Tape off public washrooms and place water shutdown restriction signage on patient washrooms (English & Mandarin, Cantonese, Farsi, Arabic, Punjabi).
- Communicate water disruptions to patients.
- Place way-finding signage to public washrooms that will be in service.
- Notify Infection Prevention & Control regarding water shutdown.
- Washer disinfectors and Vernacare will not be operational during water shutdowns.
- Distribute buckets for toilet flushing and consider management of cleaning toilets during water shutdown.
- Depending on extent of areas affected and duration, stock 'Hygie bags' for stool and urine; these disposable bags cover 'blue-ware' and/or 'Vernacare'. 'Hygie bags' are then disposed of into a lidded garbage can.
- Stock extra bottled water for patient use and address delivery to affected units.
- Depending on duration of water disruption, ensure available PPE (impervious gowns, gloves, and facemask with attached face visors) for splash-back protection during manual flushing of toilets through the use of buckets of water.

HAND HYGIENE:

- Ensure all dispensers of ABHR (alcohol-based hand rub) are full.
- Ensure adequate stock of ABHR for replacement of empty containers.
- Distribute water containers with spout for hand washing with soap and water to remove foreign matter from hands.
- Order hand wipes.