

Policy:

Prompt management of water intrusion into facility structural elements will minimize health care associated infection risks and reduce the frequency of pseudo-outbreaks.

Prevailing Codes and Standards:

ACIP 111, TJC EC 04.01.01

PM Cross Reference:

Craft 3, 10, 25

Location:

Entire campus

Procedure:

I. INSPECTIONS

Daily rounds are made on each shift. Water damage in hidden areas such as the ceiling cavity, wall cavities or in base cabinets will be reported immediately. Moisture from any source should be investigated and reported. Any signs of water stains on ceiling tiles are a good indication of possible fungal growth. Moldy or musty odors should be investigated.

II. MAINTENANCE

- A. Ceiling Tile, dry stain - Replace immediately, use personal protective equipment (PPE) and bag ceiling tile.
- B. Ceiling Tile, damp stain - Report possible leak to supervisor; when repaired, replace tile using PPE and bag ceiling tile.
- C. Wet walls - Report possible leak to supervisor. When the leak is repaired, allow 72 hours for wall to dry. If not dry or if it is not likely for material to dry in 72 hours, replace wall material. Use PPE and bag damaged materials.
- D. Wet base cabinets - Report leak to supervisor. When leak is repaired, treat wet area with chlorine bleach (confirm use of chlorine bleach with nurse manager prior to application). Allow 72 hours for area to dry. Use diluted bleach mixture of 10:1. If removal of base cabinet is required, use PPE and remove material in covered container.

NOTE: It is imperative that water intrusion be investigated and reported with expediency and that repair or replacement of the aforementioned materials be expedited and precautions taken to prevent dissemination of dust and odors.