

# **11 Steps to Prevent Infections in the MRI**

## **Environment**

### ***Recommendations for Infection control procedures for MRI Facilities in Hospitals and Outpatient Centers***

1. Develop an appropriate written infectious control policy to include MRI cleaning procedures as well as a cleaning schedule and have it posted throughout the MRI facility.
2. Implement a mandatory hand washing / hand sanitizing procedure between each patient not only for MRI technologists, but for all others who come into contact with patients.
3. Clean the MRI system, tables, inside the bore of the MRI system and any other items that come into contact with the patient. Infection control experts recommend this be done between each patient.
4. Clean all comfort pads and positioning sponges with an approved disinfectant. Infection control experts recommend cleaning after each patient.
5. Periodically inspect the pads and positioning pads with a magnifying glass, particularly at the seams, to identify fraying or tearing. If present, the pads should be replaced.
6. Regularly check all padding material with an ultraviolet (black) light and make sure that any biological material detected on the pads can be removed
7. Replace damaged or contaminated pads with new pads incorporating permanent antimicrobial agents.
8. Use pillows with a waterproof covering that is designed to be surface wiped. Replace pillows when their barrier is compromised.
9. Promptly remove any body fluids and then surface disinfect all contaminated areas.
10. If a patient has an open wound or any history of MRSA or other infection:
  - a. Gloves and gowns should be worn by all staff coming in contact with the patient. These barriers must be removed before touching other areas not coming in contact with the patient, i.e. door knobs, scanner console, computer terminals, etc.
  - b. The table and all the pads should be completely cleaned with disinfectant before the next patient is scanned, if it is not already being performed between each patient. For patients with any known infectious process, add 10-15 minutes onto

the scheduled scan time to assure there is enough time to thoroughly clean the room and all the pads.

11. All furniture should be periodically cleaned. Ideal surfaces are those that are waterproof and easily wiped. Infection control experts recommend this be done between each patient.

Source: Reprinted with permission from Peter Rothschild, MD, president of Patient Comfort Systems, Inc. ([www.patientcomfortsystems.com/](http://www.patientcomfortsystems.com/))