

Top 5 Considerations When Evaluating Manufacturer Instructions for Use (IFUs) for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Compliance

Healthcare personnel rely on manufacturer IFUs to properly clean and disinfect medical equipment and instruments. Clear, concise IFUs are essential to ensure safe and consistent compliance. Below are five key considerations to improve your IFUs:

1. DEVELOP IFUS WITH ALL HEALTHCARE ROLES IN MIND

Medical equipment and instruments are often used or handled by various staff members—including nurses, Environmental Services personnel, and biomedical engineers. Ensure the IFU uses clear, accessible language that can be easily understood by all staff, regardless of their familiarity with medical terminology.

2. INCLUDE VISUAL AIDS AND INFOGRAPHICS

Given the diverse backgrounds of healthcare personnel, visual aids and infographics serve as effective tools for reinforcing IFU steps. They offer quick-reference guidance, support multilingual understanding, and can be posted in cleaning and disinfecting areas. Ensure all visuals align accurately with the written instructions and reflect variations in procedures based on the disinfectant used or splash risk.

3. SPECIFY HAND HYGIENE AND PPE PROTOCOLS

The cleaning and disinfecting process begins before any disinfectant is used. Clearly identify when hand hygiene should be performed and when to don and doff personal

protective equipment (PPE). These steps should also be included in your visual aids for comprehensive guidance.

4. GENERALIZE DISINFECTANT SPECIFICATIONS

Since healthcare facilities use different vendors and products, avoid naming specific brands. Instead, reference the active ingredients in recommended disinfectants. This flexibility improves compliance and allows facilities to use their existing supplies or source appropriate alternatives more easily.

5. RECOMMEND DISINFECTANTS FOR EMERGING PATHOGENS

Healthcare environments face constant risks from emerging pathogens and multidrug-resistant organisms. Not all disinfectants are effective against every microorganism. Refer to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) registered disinfectant lists, including those for specific pathogens like *C. difficile* and *C. auris*. Consider contact time when selecting disinfectants—shorter durations typically improve staff compliance.

Need further assistance with your IFUs? Contact APIC Consulting to see how we can help. Email: info@apicconsulting.com.